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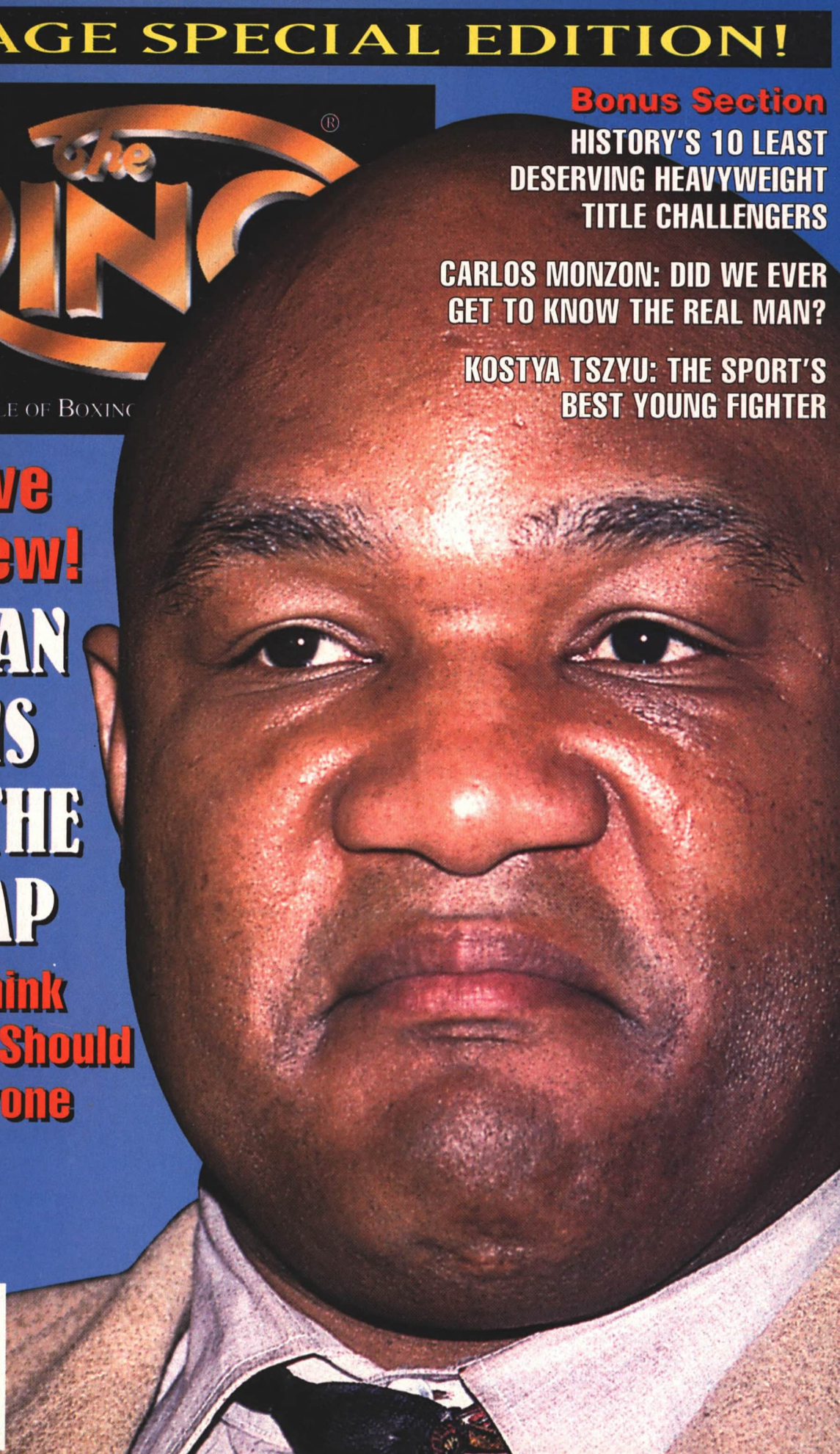

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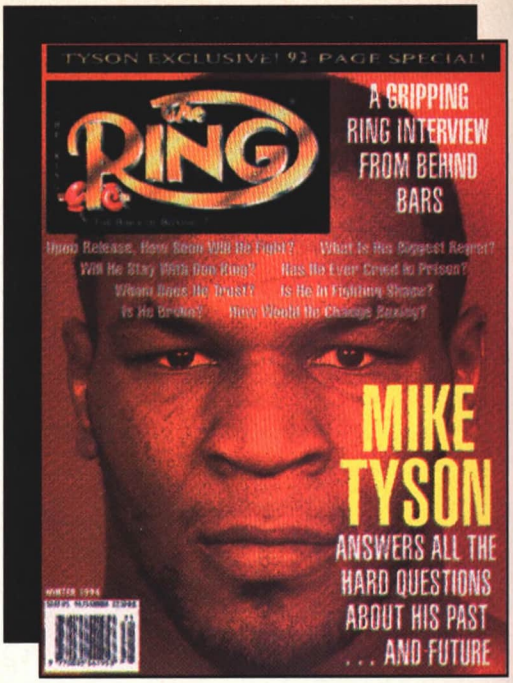

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RINGSIDE

What they didn't tell us at the press conference announcing George Foreman's first defense of the heavyweight title was that Big George was squaring off against Germany's Axel Schulz only because Mike Tyson wasn't yet available. Foreman will eventually get around to Tyson—if "Iron Mike" makes sure to get around to him. In the meantime, Foreman will pick up some pocket change (about $12-million) when he faces the faceless Schulz on April 22 at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas.

Why Axel Schulz instead of, say, Lou Savarese or Jim Jeffries or Mr. McFeely from *Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood*? Not surprisingly, the answer is money, something Foreman understands at least as well as his promoter, Bob Arum, his lawyer, Henry Holmes, or his adviser, Mort Sharnik. German television will pay the staggering sum of $1-million for live rights. There are only 45 licensed professional boxers in Germany, but when Egerton Marcus challenged IBF light heavyweight champion and German national hero Henry Maske in February, 12-million of the nation's 28-million TV sets were turned on and tuned in. Imagine what the rating will be for Foreman-Schulz.

"You shouldn't be too sad if I take the title to Germany, because I promise to defend it here," Schulz said with a straight face at the press conference in New York City. Wonder if ESPN will pay $1-million for the rights to Schulz-Joe Hipp.

Schulz has twice failed in attempts to win the European heavyweight title, and his biggest victory is a decision over fortysomething Bonecrusher Smith. Still, Foreman has made sure to say all the right things. During an interview conducted in Big George's suite at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel *(see page 24)*, he even made a case for Schulz' chances. Right, George. Are we supposed to believe you're risking a potential $50-million payday for a Tyson fight by defending against the next Max Schmeling? Let's put it this way: If Schulz survives the referee's prefight instructions, the judges should score round one for him.

Speaking of Schmeling, Arum concluded the press conference by playing a tape of boxing's oldest former world champion's thoughts on Foreman-Schulz. Schmeling, who conquered Joe Louis in 1936, was the last European heavyweight who didn't ultimately disgrace the continent. Some of those who followed (Ingemar Johansson, Lennox Lewis) only briefly distinguished themselves. Others (Tommy Farr, Henry Cooper, Frank Bruno) just weren't quite good enough. Still others (Brian London, Lucien Rodriguez, Alfredo Evangelista) were sadly lacking in world-class skills. Then there were Richard Dunn and Jean-Pierre Coopman, who defy categorization because no one who fights for the world title should be that bad. The guess here is that after Foreman swallows Schulz, Dunn and Coopman, both of whom made our list of the 10 least deserving heavyweight title challengers of all-time *(see page 27)*, will have company.

As for Foreman-Tyson, what's all the fuss about? Tony Tucker-Bruce Seldon—now *that's* a heavyweight showdown for the ages. The Dark Ages.

Steve Farhood
Editor-in-Chief

Volume 74, No. 6 **June 1995**

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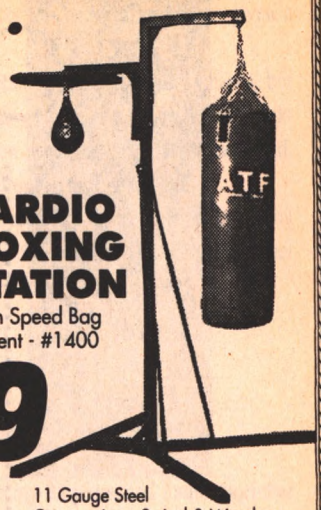

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COME OUT WRITING

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HOW ABOUT WHITAKER-TRINIDAD?

In response to the story in your February 1995 issue, "Pernell Whitaker: Simply The Best ... And Simply No Way To Keep Proving It," if Whitaker is so damn good, why doesn't he fight Felix Trinidad? The answer: He knows Trinidad would kick his butt all across the ring!

As I'm writing this, Whitaker is scheduled to move up in weight and take on junior middleweight champion Julio Cesar Vasquez. I say he's ducking Trinidad. Deep down, he knows he doesn't possess the hand speed or virulence of the Puerto Rican welterweight champion. If Julio Cesar Chavez, for example, chose to move up or down in weight, you'd crucify him for ducking Frankie Randall.

There's no doubt Whitaker is a good fighter, but he's only fought 36 times in a 12-year career, and that doesn't impress me. Compare that fight total to Chavez or Randall. And Trinidad, who is only 22 and hasn't fought half as long as Whitaker, has already had 25 fights.

If Trinidad is too much for Whitaker to swallow, how about Randall? Randall would dissect "Sweet Pea" like the surgeon he really is. Get off the Whitaker bandwagon and find a *real* best fighter, pound-for-pound, in the world.

KENNETH W. GRAVES
San Diego, CA

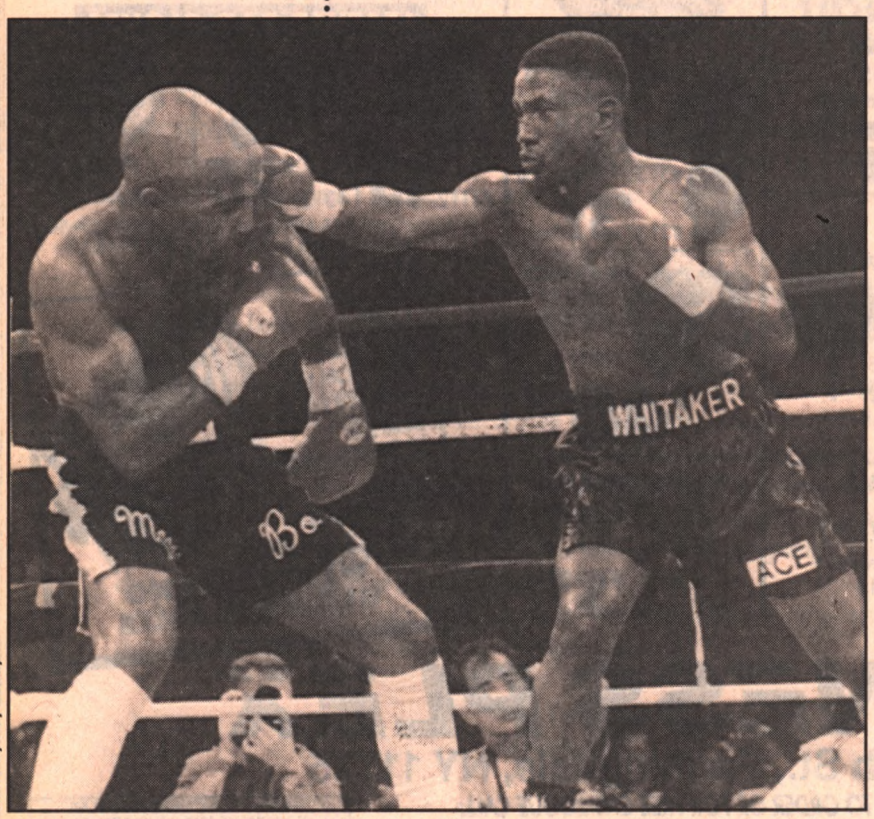


Photo by Ray Bailey

There are viable opponents for Pernell Whitaker to fight besides Buddy McGirt. How about unbeaten IBF welterweight champion Felix Trinidad? That would surely be an anticipated fight.

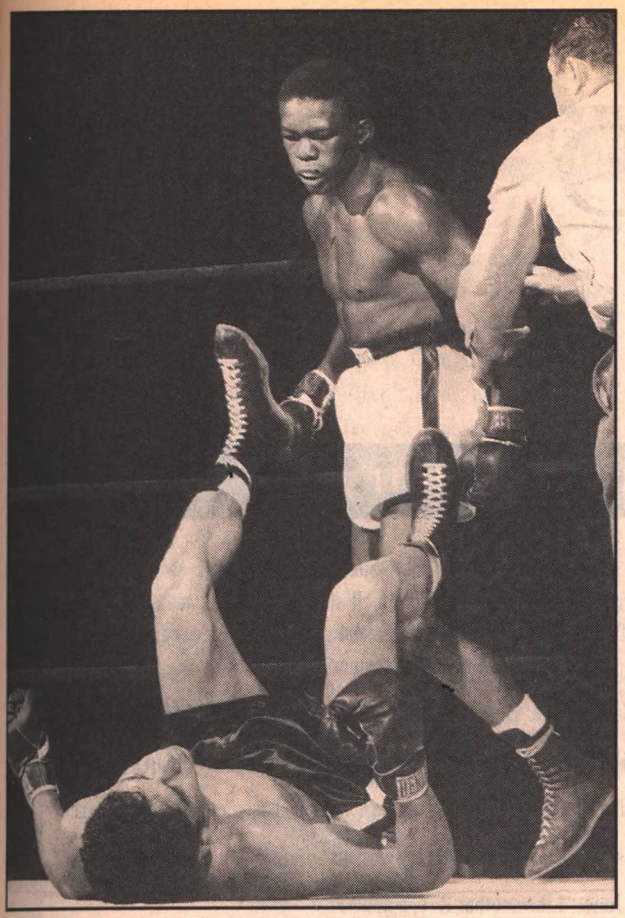
Pernell Whitaker has no one to fight? I don't know how much boxing you've been watching, but maybe you should check out IBF welterweight champion Felix Trinidad, who, at the tender age of 22, is one of the most impressive boxers in the world. I think Whitaker is avoiding him at all costs because if there's somebody out there who can cut off the ring and combine pressure with power, it's Trinidad.

REY SANTIAGO
Whittier, CA

BATTLE OF THE LEGENDS

I've been a reader of THE RING since 1945, and I'd like to see a "Battle Of The Legends" featuring Roberto Duran vs. Ike Williams. I don't mean to disrespect Duran, who has to be considered the greatest lightweight of all-time, but I see the bout developing much like Duran-Thomas Hearns or Williams-Bob Montgomery II, with Williams scoring a surprise kayo. How about it?

DICK MOODY
Annandale, NJ



Would lightweight great Ike Williams have done to Roberto Duran in a dream fight what he did to Jesse Flores in 1948? Reader Dick Moody thinks so.

WHAT IF ...

I disagree with the result of the "What If ... " matchup featuring Jake LaMotta and Rocky Graziano in the February 1995 issue. I'm sure the program used for the feature is a fine piece of software, but how on earth could the computer have picked LaMotta to win?

Several improbable things happened in your simulation. In round seven, Graziano staggered LaMotta with an overhand right, then followed with a left hook flush on the jaw. But LaMotta didn't go down. With Graziano's deadly right hand and killer instinct, LaMotta indeed would have gone down, maybe for the night.

Also, Graziano went down in round 12, which never would have happened. Graziano's granite chin, coupled with LaMotta's average knockout power, would have prevented this occurrence.

Graziano would have crushed "The Raging Bull." Even LaMotta's steel chin would not have stood up to The Rock's booming knockout punches. Graziano's brawling style would easily have overcome LaMotta's volume punching. Graziano KO 3 LaMotta. That's all that needs to be said.

MATTHEW STYER
Blue Bell, PA

CHAVEZ STILL BELONGS

In your pound-for-pound ratings, I want to know why you no longer include Julio Cesar Chavez. Until recently, you rated Michael Carbajal, who had lost to Chiquita Gonzalez and beaten Josue Camacho, a fighter nobody had heard of. And you rated Orlando Canizales even after he was given a gift decision over Sergio Reyes.

Sure, Pernell Whitaker and Frankie Randall have undressed Chavez, but fighters and pound-for-pound entrants like Carbajal, Gonzalez, and Ricardo Lopez haven't met the class of opposition a warrior like Chavez has faced. At least Chavez, unlike Randall, wasn't dropped by Juan Coggi.

Your pound-for-pound top 10 should read like this: 1) Whitaker; 2) Roy Jones; 3) Felix Trinidad; 4) James Toney; 5) Randall; 6) Chavez; 7) Miguel Angel Gonzalez; 8) Lopez; 9) Gerald McClellan; 10) Gonzalez.

BOBBY WHITE
Millpitas, CA

DREAM FIGHTS

I've been a big boxing fan for 17 of my 23 years, and I still remember the first big fight I saw, Salvador Sanchez-Wilfredo Gomez. Fights like that generate new fans. Here, then, are the big fights I'd like to see over the remainder of 1995: Julio Cesar Chavez-Frankie Randall III; Roy Jones-Gerald McClellan; Felix Trinidad-Pernell Whitaker; Yuri Arbachakov-Ricardo Lopez; Terry Norris-Julian Jackson II; Nigel Benn-Chris Eubank III; and Anaclet Wamba-Thomas Hearns.

HEBER S. LARACUENTE
Kissimmee, FL

TYSON'S COMEBACK

After reading about Mike Tyson's soon-to-be comeback, I felt relieved. I have to admit that when "Iron Mike" was champion, I wasn't his biggest fan. In fact, when he was kayoed by Buster Douglas, no one was happier than me. But heavyweight boxing hasn't been the same since Tyson was imprisoned.

Hopefully, Tyson will lead boxing back to the glory days, when the heavyweight division was the most dominant in the sport. So if Tyson needs any fans, you can bet I'll be willing to jump on the bandwagon.

RICARDO QUINTERO
Baldwin Park, CA

KING IS THE KING

In reference to the letter titled "The Image Of Boxing" in the April 1995 issue, please permit me to voice my observations in defense of Don King.

As a former manager and trainer of two pro boxers and a team of amateurs back in the '70s, I have more than a passing interest in the great sport of boxing. Say what they want about King, but true aficionados cannot deny that he promotes the very best of competitive matches, regardless of weight class. Fans can be certain they're going to be treated to a genuine in-your-face contest.

Too many champions and top-rated fighters are engaging in promotions that are failing to enhance their prestige. I say to King: Keep giving the boxing public those barn-burners.

CHUCK BUCHINSKY
Port Crane, NY ■

ROUND ONE

OH, BABY, THESE GUYS CAN HIT!

If you've ever seen a baseball brawl, you know pitchers make lousy cruiserweights. But what about boxers playing hardball? In light of the baseball strike, Top Rank matchmaker Ron Katz, who has been timed from home plate to first base in 37 seconds, suggests the following replacement team. Are you listening, George Steinbrenner?

First baseman—Riddick Bowe: Big target for infielders; good pop in 44-ounce bat.

Second baseman—Kevin Kelley: Scrappy, with no quit. Likes to talk it up in infield.

Third baseman—Mike McCallum: Ageless and noted for consistency; a future manager.

Shortstop—Ed Hopson: Speed demon who covers a lot of ground.

Right fielder—Roy Jones: Like another Roy, a natural.

Center fielder—Virgil Hill: Excellent speed; a Gold(en) Glover defensively.

Left fielder—Ike Quartey: Big-time home run hitter; leads league in devastating dingers.

Catcher—Ray Mercer: A rock behind plate; can take a pounding all night.

Designated Hitter—George Foreman: Big-time power threat; doesn't like to play the field.

Starting Pitcher (right-handed)—Felix Trinidad: Great fastball; mixes delivery well.

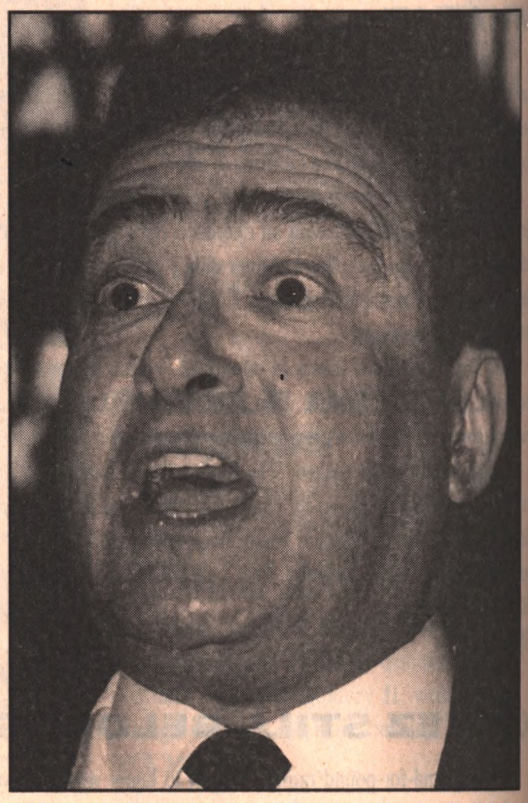
Starting Pitcher (left-handed)—Henry Maske: Crafty; difficult for hitters to figure out.

Relief Pitcher—Pernell Whitaker: Never blows a lead.

Manager—Bob Arum: Great field general, but gets thrown out of every game for arguing.

Photo by Jay Lash

Trinidad: Hard thrower



"Whatta ya mean he was safe?" Arum would be hell on umpires

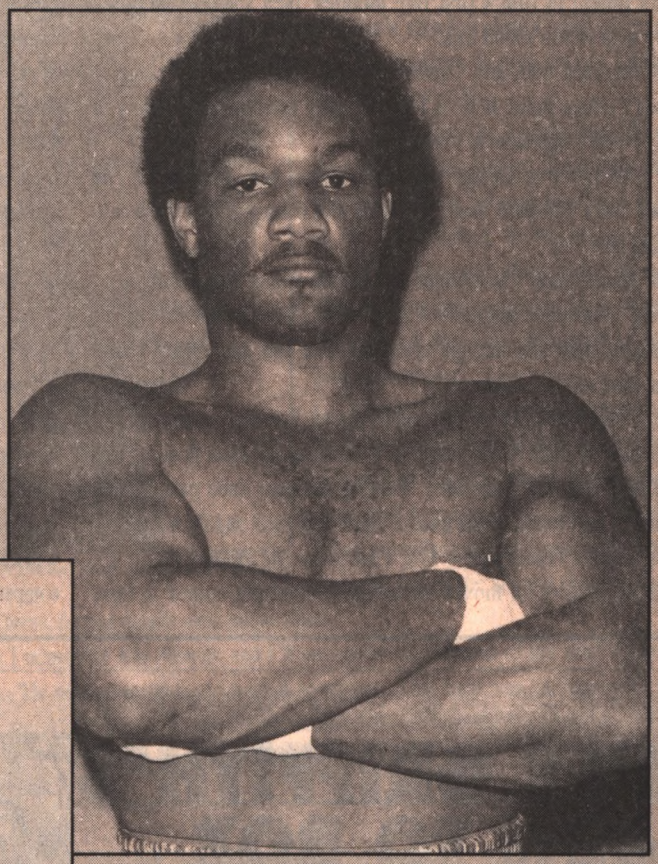
GEORGE vs. GEORGE

Is the *new* George Foreman better than the *old* George Foreman? In the aftermath of Foreman's title-winning knockout of Michael Moorer, it was inevitable that fans and insiders would speculate about the George vs. George matchup. The April 1995 cover story of THE RING's sister magazine *World Boxing* was "George vs. George: This Is Not A Mismatch!" With all respect, that sentiment is an emotional crock!

The best way to take the sentimentality out of the equation is to feed the facts into a computer. The Foreman-Foreman simulation was fought using the "Title Fight Pro Boxing for Windows" computer program. The results:

• In 100 bouts, the 1974 Foreman won 83 times, while the 1995 Foreman won 17 times.

• In 100 bouts, the 1974 Foreman scored 44 knockouts and 32 TKOs, while the 1995 Foreman scored only four knockouts and seven TKOs.



The old (young) Foreman vs. the new (old) Foreman: Who would win? Jim Trunzo says it's no contest.

• Only 13 of the 100 bouts went the distance.

• An astounding total of 297 knockdowns were scored by the two Georges, an average of almost three per fight.

A typical scenario: Young George blitzes his mirror image, making the fight from the opening bell. By the fourth round, Old George shows swelling around both eyes and a cut over one of them. With frequency, Old George staggers his younger counterpart and maybe even scores a knockdown. But Young George manages to rise and score knockdowns of his own. In the fifth, Old George crashes, and in the sixth he's again floored and either counted out or rescued by the referee.

It would be nice to think the smiling, benevolent George of today would slay the surly bully-boy of 1974. But logic—and the computer—says it just wouldn't happen.

–Jim Trunzo

THE 10 MATCHUPS ROY JONES-VINNY PAZIENZA BRINGS TO MIND

10. Dallas Cowboys 134, Hiawatha (Kansas) High School Junior Varsity 2: Coach Tom Landry orders fourth-quarter intentional safety so he won't be accused of running up score.

9. Godzilla vs. Bambi: In Japanese cult classic, unbeaten beast devours Bambi in film's first five minutes, then spends two hours flossing with victim's hind legs.

8. Harvard 680, Jim Carrey Junior College 0: On nationally televised *College Bowl*, JCJC is forced to play catch-up after failing to identify North's opponent in Civil War.

7. Carl Lewis vs. George Wendt: No *Cheers* here: In *Battle Of The Network Stars* 100-yard dash, Wendt is DQ'd for jiggling flesh into adjoining lane.

6. Jean-Claude Van Damme vs. Woody Allen: In celebrity arm-wrestling competition at Cannes Film Festival, Van Damme drives The Woodman's right arm through table and floor and into French chef's bouillabaisse one level below.

5. Cindy Crawford vs. Roseanne Arnold: Swimsuit competition at 1992 Sexiest Woman Alive contest in Tahiti heats up when Rosie arrives with Tonya Harding's advisers. Wearing designer knee pads, Cindy advances to next round; Rosie told to burn bathing suit and fly home.

4. Harlem Globetrotters 195, Cast from *The Wizard Of Oz* 13: Played for charity on movie set in 1939; highlight comes in third quarter, when "Big Dog" Toto reverse-dunks over Meadowlark Lemon.

Riggs netted Ford; will Jones slam Paz?

3. Bobby Riggs vs. President Gerald Ford: As handicap, Riggs agrees to play with 1971 Buick chained around his waist. Charity tennis match ends in first set, with Riggs leading 1-0 in games, when Ford trips over baseline and fractures ankle.

2. U.S. Press Corps vs. Ayatollah Khomeini All-Stars: Annual best-ball golf match ends in DQ on par-four third hole, when All-Stars intentionally aim for fairway sand trap, then camp out there, claiming, "It makes us feel at home."

1. Shaquille O'Neal vs. Muggsy Bogues: During NBA's All-Star weekend festivities, Muggsy edges Shaq in first round of limbo competition. Complains loser, "It wasn't fair; he didn't even have to bend."

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McCall is the target of a lawsuit

OUTSIDE THE ROPES

On the day he promoted a card at the Blue Horizon, Philadelphia promoter **Russell Peltz** and three employees were robbed at gunpoint in his office. Two men made off with $750 in cash and 300 tickets ... A Fort Lauderdale (Florida) woman is suing WBC heavyweight champion **Oliver McCall**, claiming he pushed her down and seriously injured her knee after she rebuffed his attempts to kiss her. The woman's attorney said his client suffered "permanent" ligament damage that will require surgery ... Two-division former champion **Donald Curry** was acquitted of drug conspiracy charges after an 11-day jury trial in Detroit. Former Kronk boxers **Darrell Chambers** and **Stanley Longstreet** were found guilty.

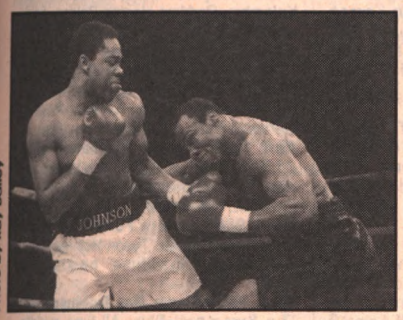


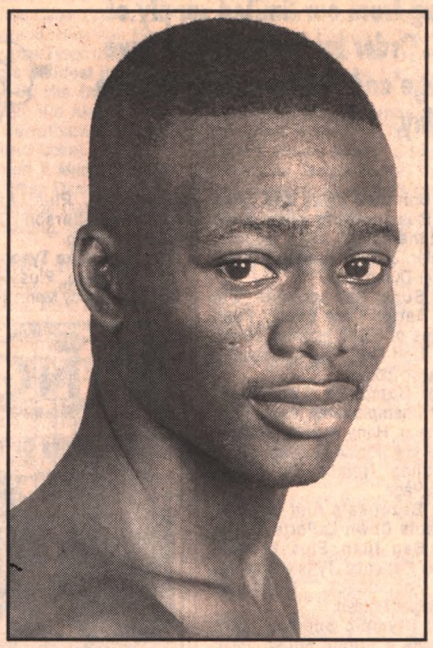
Photo by Ray Bailey

Kirk Johnson tops Marion Wilson, or is it ...

THE PUNCHLINE

Why we insist Michael Buffer work *all* ESPN-televised *Top Rank Boxing* shows: After an eight-round distance fight between heavyweights Kirk Johnson and Marion Wilson, ring announcer Chuck Seece informs the viewing audience and the fans at the Fernwood Resort in Bushkill, Pennsylvania, that the winner by unanimous decision is "Kirk Wilson." (Actually, Kirk *Johnson* was the winner.)

KID AKEEM, 1968-1995



Akeem never recovered from his loss to Quiroga

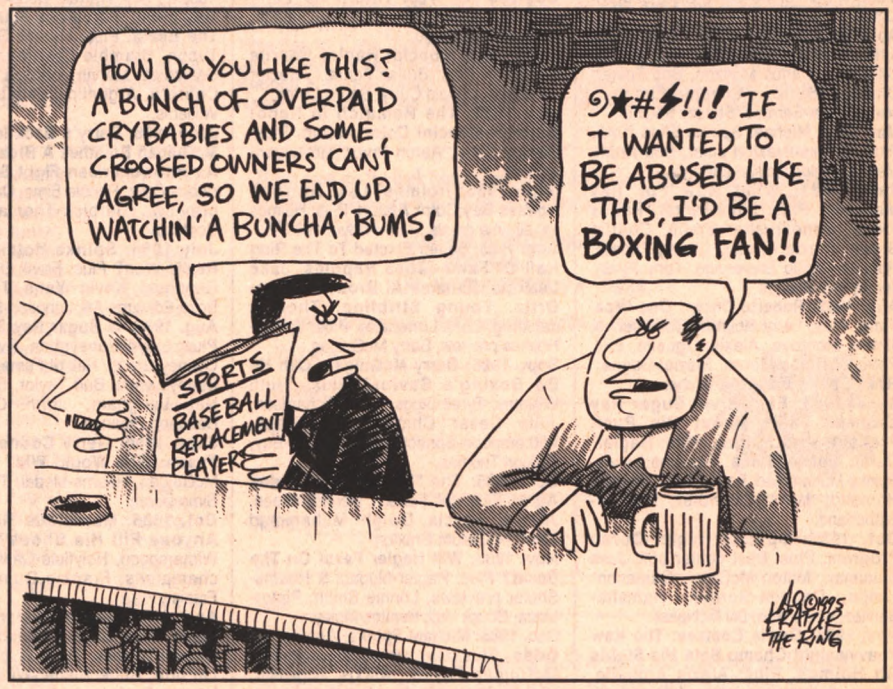
Former NABF super flyweight champion Kid Akeem Anifowoshe, a loser in the greatest 115-pound title fight in the division's 15-year history, died of brain-related injuries in his native Lagos, Nigeria. He was 26.

The previously undefeated (23-0) Akeem's points loss to defending IBF champion Robert Quiroga in 1991's Fight of the Year marked the beginning of his downfall. Akeem collapsed in the ring after the bout and underwent brain surgery that saved his life. His career was pronounced over.

Akeem was subsequently arrested on three separate drug-related charges and deported to Nigeria, where he reportedly attempted to resume his career. One day after complaining of headaches upon stepping out of the shower, he was dead. As we went to press, further details were not available.

"Of course I remember Kid Akeem, and I'll remember him the rest of my life," Quiroga told THE RING. "He was a nice guy and a good sportsman. That fight was the biggest of my career, and it meant the most for me. Every so often I still pop the tape into the VCR. Someday my grandchildren will watch that fight, too."

AL KRATZER'S VIEW



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Aug. 1981: Wilfred Benitez: Triple Crown Champ. Plus: Alexis Arguello, Roberto Duran, Henry Armstrong, Bob Fitzsimmons, Davey Moore, Benitez-Hope, Page-Evangelista, Hagler-Antuofermo II, Hamsho-Minter.

Oct. 1981: Holmes-Cooney: Is It Is Or Is It Ain't? Plus: Best Fighter, hard-hitting heavyweights, who's who in each division, Donald Curry, Spinks-Muhammad, Chandler-Solis, Snipes-Coetzee, boxing on TV, Rocky Graziano, Sugar Ray Leonard.

Feb. 1982: Special Holmes-Cooney Program Section. Plus: Irish boxers, Sean O'Grady, Ali, Pedroza-Ballas, Braxton-Muhammad, Pedroza-Sibaca, Sanchez-Cowdell, Best of The Ring Anthology.

March 1982: Sanchez & Leonard: Fighters Of The Year! Plus: special year-end 100-page issue, fight, round, and upsets of year, Dwight Braxton, Benitez-Duran, Czyz-Sims, Pedroza-LaPorte.

Aug. 1982: Cooney: Is He The Real McCoy? Plus: Sugar Ray Leonard pinup, Holmes-Cooney coverage, Howard Davis, British heavyweights, Larry Holmes, Limon-Navarette.

Jan. 1983: Pryor-Arguello: Fight Of The Year. Plus: Frank "Animal" Fletcher, Dwight Braxton-Michael Spinks preview, ring deaths, Muhammad Ali.

Feb. 1983: Michael Dokes: Tainted Champion? Plus: Howard Cosell, Ray Mancini, Bum of the Month Club, Chacon-Limon.

April 1983: Randall "Tex" Cobb: Not Just Another Pretty Face. Plus: Hector Camacho, Carlos Monzon, Bob Foster, Charley Burley, Scypion-Fletcher, Mayweather-Serrano, Stanley Ketchel.

May 1983: Michael Spinks Wins It All. Plus: Spinks-Braxton color, Bob Arum, Marvin Hagler, Collins-LaPaglia.

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Aug. 1983: Roberto Duran: One 'Mas' Time. Plus: Larry Holmes, Colin Jones, Jimmy Montoya, Alexis Arguello, Billy Petrolle, Duran-Moore, Frazier-Bugner, Resto-Collins, Escalera-Hatcher.

Sept. 1983: Exclusive: Sugar Ray Leonard Talks About His Past, Present, And Future. Plus: Hagler-Duran, Jaime Garza, Panama Lewis, Spinks-Muhammad, Bobo Olson, Mustafa Hamsho, Muniz-Chandler, Hearns-Sutherland.

Oct. 1983: Special Hagler-Duran Program. Plus: Best fighter poll, Jose Sulaiman, Milton McCrory, Camacho-Limon, DeLeon-Gordon, Hamsho-Benitez, who's who, Bill McNeese.

Nov. 1983: Gerrie Coetzee: The New Heavyweight Champ Sets His Sights On Holmes. Plus: Alexis Arguello, Murray Sutherland, James J. Braddock, Muhammad Ali.

Feb. 1984: Don King Talks And Talks And Talks. Plus: Leonard's return, Eddie Mustafa Muhammad, 1983 quotes, Marvin Hagler, Johnny Bratton, Gerald Hayes, Hagler-Duran color.

April 1984: Sugar Ray Leonard: "I'm Gonna Be Better Than Ever!" Plus: Ring's ratings of 8,000 fighters, Henry Armstrong, Don Lee, Koji Kobayashi, Mancini-Chacon (color).

June 1984: Bumphus, Lockridge, Duva: 'That Championship Year.' Plus: Ferdie Pacheco, Harry Arroyo, Holmes-Coetzee preview, Pipino Cuevas, Aaron Pryor, Battling Nelson-Joe Gans, Witherspoon-Page.

July 1984: Bazooka's Aim Is True: Gomez Shoots Down LaPorte In The Battle For San Juan. Plus: Michael Spinks, Vinny Pazienza, Tyrone Crawley, Leonard's comeback, Chandler-Sandoval, Hagler-Roldan.

Aug. 1984: Olympic Special: Mark Breland Leads A Strong Squad. Plus: Leonard-Howard, Davila-Sanchez, Bonecrusher-Bruno, Bramble-Mancini, Hatcher-Bumphus, Garza-Orozco.

Oct. 1984: The Beast From The East: John Mugabi Strikes Terror Into The Hearts Of Men. Plus: Olympics, Bill Costello, Davey Moore, Wilfred Benitez, King's heavyweights.

Dec. 1984: Hagler Hammers Hamsho. Plus: Barry McGuigan, boxing's best, James Broad, Julian Jackson, Pinklon Thomas.

Jan. 1985: Holmes-Bonecrusher Color Action. Plus: Gerry Cooney, pro debuts (Breland, Hill, Taylor, Biggs, Whitaker, Holyfield), Santos-Medal, Meza-Garza.

Feb. 1985: Showdown: Page Clobbers Coetzee For WBA Title. Plus: Larry Holmes, lightweights, Cooney-Chaplin, McCallum-Minchillo.

April 1985: Special Hagler-Hearns Program. Plus: British fighters, Hector Camacho, Donald Curry, Sonny Liston.

May 1985: The Rematch In Reno: Bramble-Mancini Color Action. Plus: Donald Curry, Aaron Pryor, McGuigan-LaPorte.

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Aug. 1985: Seven Elected To The Ring Hall Of Fame (Jose Napoles, Jake LaMotta, Panama Al Brown, Manuel Ortiz, Young Stribling, Thomas Jackling, Lord Lonsdale). Plus: Spinks-Holmes preview, Barry McGuigan.

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Nov. 1985: Will Hagler Feast On The Beast? Plus: Hagler-Mugabi & Hearns-Shuler previews, Lonnie Smith, Pintor-Meza, Chuck Hull, Benitez-Moley.

Dec. 1985: Michael Spinks: Against All Odds. Plus: Curry-McCrory preview, McGuigan-Taylor, Alexis Arguello, Michael Olajide, Chavez-Pratchett.

Jan. 1986: In Search Of A Heavyweight Champion. Plus: Azumah Nelson, Arguello-Jefferson, Olympic update, Chicago boxing.

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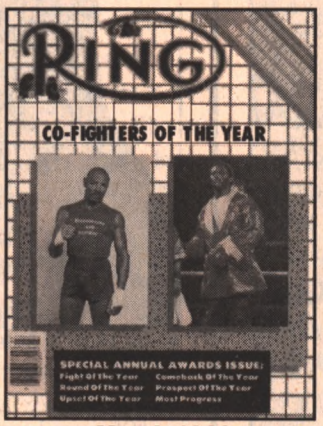

March 1986

March 1986 (Awards Issue): Co-Fighters Of The Year: Marvelous Marvin Hagler & Donald Curry. Plus: Ring's Annual Awards, Evander Holyfield, Williamson-Muhammad, Camacho-Roach, 1985 boxing diary.

April 1986: Witherspoon Tames Tubbs For WBA Title. Plus: Dream fights, Greg Haugen, Tyrell Biggs, Mark Breland, Paul Gonzales, HBO tourney, Witherspoon-Tubbs, Frank Warren, Gene Tunney.

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Aug. 1986: Is Sugar Ray Still Sweet? Plus: Lloyd Honeyghan, Tyson-Green, Cooney-Gregg, Hall of Fame (Eder Jofre, Benny Lynch, Bud Taylor, Sam McVey, Nat Langham, John Chambers), Bernardo Pinango.

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April 1987: Hagler-Leonard Souvenir Issue. Plus: Czyz, Orlando Canizales, Mugabi-Thomas, Biggs-Snipes, Chavez-LaPorte, Bonecrusher-Witherspoon II, Haugen-Paul.

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Oct. 1987: Special Hall Of Fame Issue: Ali Elected Unanimously! Plus: Hall of Fame directory, Spinks-Cooney, Pazienza-Haugen II, Aaron Pryor.

Nov. 1987: Tyson Wins Heavyweight Triple Crown. Plus: McCallum-Curry, Carlos Monzon interview, triple champions, Orlin & Terry Norris, Ramirez-Alli, Fenech-Richardson, Matthew Hilton.

Dec. 1987: Spinks & Lewis: Boxing's Beastie Boys. Plus: Starling-Breland, Ramzi Hassan, Honeyghan-Hatcher, Holyfield-Ocasio.

Jan. 1988: Darrin Van Horn-Million Dollar Baby? Plus: Evander Holyfield, Hill-Stewart, Juan Coggi, great hookers, AIDS.

Feb. 1988: Gold Outshines Glitter: Tate Tops Olajide. Plus: Tyson-Biggs, Kalambay-Barkley, Hearns-Roldan, fights we'd like to see.

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Sept. 1988: Sugar Ray: Here He Comes Again! Plus: Andries-Czyz, Kid Chocolate, Don Dunphy, Don Lalonde.

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Nov. 1988: Donny Lalonde: "Sugar Ray is Out Of His Mind!" Plus: Hall of Fame selections (Carlos Ortiz, Joe Brown, Billy Graham, Cus D'Amato, Jimmy Jacobs), Nunn-Tate, Molinares-Starling, Honeyghan-Chung, '88 Olympians.

Jan. 1989: Meldrick Taylor: Philly Phenom. Plus: Marvin Hagler, Alex Wallau, Taylor-McGirt, Olympic results.

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March 1989: Hearns Next For Sugar Ray? Plus: Leonard-Lalonde, Prince Charles Williams, Hearns-Kinchen, Nunn-Roldan, Hines-Hilton.

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Aug. 1991: Foreman Gives Holyfield A Fight ... And The World A Thrill (color). Plus: Making weight, Harry Greb, Kevin Kelley, Louis-Conn I, Simon Brown-Blocker, Chavez-Duplessis, Sugar Ray Robinson.

Oct. 1991: A Hit Again-How Far Can Thomas Hearns Go? Plus: Battling Levinsky, Oba Carr, Dave McAuley, Muhammad Ali, Lou Ambers, Luther McCarty, ethnic matchups, computer light heavy tournament, Cerdan-Hagler, Rocky Marciano (color).

Dec. 1991: Evander Holyfield vs. Mike Tyson: Who Will Win And Why. Plus: Eddie Aliano, Jack Britton, Muhammad Ali, Pernell Whitaker, rating the 44 world champions, Marcel Cerdan, Henry Cooper, Ezzard Charles-Jersey Joe Walcott (color).

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July 1992: Does Larry Holmes Deserve A Title Shot? Plus: Nelson-Fenech II, Tracy Patterson, Kelley-Dorsey, fat fighters, Buchanan-Camacho, Holmes-Ali (color).

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Sept. 1994 (92-Page Special): How Michael Moorer Defeated Evander Holyfield, By Teddy Atlas! Plus: Chavez-Randall II, Lennox Lewis, Mando Ramos, all-time greatest cards, What If ... Duran vs. Arguello, All-Time Top 10: Scotland.

Oct. 1994: Rating The Champs: Whitaker & Toney Lead The Field ... But Roy Jones Is Closing Fast. Plus: Oscar De La Hoya, Meldrick Taylor, Rafael Ruelas, Curtis Cokes.

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Winter 1994 (92-Page Special): Mike Tyson: An Exclusive Interview From Behind Bars. Plus: Best of the last 100 years, Jones-Toney preview, Injuries (part III), Miguel Angel Gonzalez, Jack Sharkey, What If ... Galindez-Conteh.

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3126/11-94

THE RING RATINGS

For Period Ended February 24, 1995

Carl Thompson
Cruiserweight

Quincy Taylor
Middleweight

Joe Lipsey
Middleweight

Derrell Coley
Welterweight

Nazarov Olzubek
Lightweight

Vuyani Bungu
Junior Featherweight

How Our Ratings Are Compiled

In each division, fighters are ranked according to their abilities and accomplishments.

Being champion does not necessarily mean a fighter will be rated at the top of his weight class.

These ratings reflect how the best fighters in the world rate against one another.

Ratings By The Editors

Records By Fight Fax Inc.

HEAVYWEIGHTS
Weight Unlimited

1. **GEORGE FOREMAN** Houston, TX *73-4 (WBA/IBF Champ)*
2. **OLIVER McCALL** Chicago, IL *25-5 (WBC Champ)*
3. **RIDDICK BOWE** Fort Washington, MD *35-1*
4. **MICHAEL MOORER** Detroit, MI *35-0*
5. **LENNOX LEWIS** England *25-1*
6. **HERBIE HIDE** England *26-0*
7. **LARRY HOLMES** Easton, PA *61-4*
8. **HENRY AKINWANDE** England *24-0-1*
9. **JORGE LUIS GONZALEZ** Las Vegas, NV *22-0*
10. **LIONEL BUTLER** Houston, TX *22-10-1*

CRUISERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 195 pounds

1. **ORLIN NORRIS** Campo, CA *42-3 (WBA Champ)*
2. **AL COLE** Spring Valley, NY *25-1 (IBF Champ)*
3. **ANACLET WAMBA** France *45-2-1 (WBC Champ)*
4. **ADOLPHO WASHINGTON** Lexington, KY *24-2-2*
5. **SERGEI KOBOZEV** Brooklyn, NY *20-0*
6. **CARL THOMPSON** England *18-3*
7. **ARTHUR WILLIAMS** Las Vegas, NV *23-3-1*
8. **ALEXANDER GUROV** Ukraine, *13-0-1*
9. **KENNY KEENE** Emmett, ID *30-0*
10. **MARCELO DOMINGUEZ** Argentina *14-1-1*

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 175 pounds

1. **VIRGIL HILL** Bismarck, ND *39-1 (WBA Champ)*
2. **MIKE McCALLUM** Brooklyn, NY *47-2-1 (WBC Champ)*
3. **HENRY MASKE** Germany *25-0 (IBF Champ)*
4. **JAMES TONEY** Ann Arbor, MI *44-1-2*
5. **FABRICE TIOZZO** France *30-1*
6. **DARIUSZ MICHALCZEWSKI** Germany *25-0*
7. **MERQUI SOSA** New York, NY *24-4-2*
8. **PRINCE CHARLES WILLIAMS** Mansfield, OH *36-6-3*
9. **EGERTON MARCUS** Canada *14-0*
10. **MONTELL GRIFFIN** Chicago, IL *14-0*

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 168 pounds

1. **ROY JONES** Pensacola, FL *27-0 (IBF Champ)*
2. **CHRIS EUBANK** England *41-0-2*
3. **NIGEL BENN** England *39-2-1 (WBC Champ)*
4. **GERALD McCLELLAN** Freeport, IL *31-2*
5. **FRANK LILES** N. Hollywood, CA *26-1 (WBA Champ)*
6. **VINNY PAZIENZA** Cranston, RI *40-5*
7. **TIM LITTLES** Flint, MI *24-1*
8. **FREDERIC SEILLIER** France *39-5-2*
9. **RAY CLOSE** N. Ireland *20-3-1*
10. **GRACIANO ROCCHIGIANI** Germany *37-1-1*

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 160 pounds

1. **JORGE CASTRO** Argentina *96-4-2 (WBA Champ)*
2. **BERNARD HOPKINS** Philadelphia, PA *26-2-1*
3. **QUINCY TAYLOR** Dallas, TX *24-3*
4. **JOHN DAVID JACKSON** Seattle, WA *32-1*
5. **REGGIE JOHNSON** Houston, TX *35-4-1*
6. **SEGUNDO MERCADO** Ecuador *18-2-1*
7. **STEVE COLLINS** Ireland *28-3*
8. **JOE LIPSEY** Lansing, MI *24-0*
9. **AGOSTINO CARDAMONE** Italy *24-0*
10. **RODNEY TONEY** Campo, CA *19-1-2*

JR. MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 154 pounds

1. JULIO CESAR VASQUEZ
   Argentina 52-1 (WBA Champ)
2. TERRY NORRIS
   Mission Valley, CA 38-5
3. VINCENT PETTWAY
   Baltimore, MD 37-4-1 (IBF Champ)
4. VERNO PHILLIPS
   New York, NY 24-4-1
5. BUDDY McGIRT
   Hauppauge, NY 65-4-1
6. GIANFRANCO ROSI
   Italy 57-4-1
7. JULIO CESAR GREEN
   Brooklyn, NY 18-1
8. SIMON BROWN
   Mount Airy, MD 42-3
9. RAUL MARQUEZ
   Houston, TX 19-0
10. LAURENT BOUDOUANI
    France 28-2

WELTERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 147 pounds

1. PERNELL WHITAKER
   Norfolk, VA 34-1-1 (WBC Champ)
2. FELIX TRINIDAD
   Puerto Rico 25-0 (IBF Champ)
3. IKE QUARTEY
   Ghana 27-0 (WBA Champ)
4. CRISANTO ESPANA
   N. Ireland 30-1
5. YORI BOY CAMPAS
   Mexico 56-1
6. WILFREDO RIVERA
   Puerto Rico 19-0-1
7. OBA CARR
   Detroit, MI 32-1
8. DERRELL COLEY
   Capitol Heights, MD 25-0-2
9. EAMONN LOUGHRAN
   Ireland 24-1-1
10. ANDREW MURRAY
    Guyana 17-2

JR. WELTERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 140 pounds

1. FRANKIE RANDALL
   Warren, OH 51-3-1 (WBA Champ)
2. JULIO CESAR CHAVEZ
   Mexico 92-1-1 (WBC Champ)
3. JAKE RODRIGUEZ
   Brentwood, NY 26-2-2 (IBF Champ)
4. KOSTYA TSZYU
   Australia 13-0
5. JUAN COGGI
   Argentina 67-3-2
6. DAVID KAMAU
   Los Angeles, CA 25-0
7. GIOVANNI PARISI
   Italy 29-1
8. RAY OLIVEIRA
   Falls River, MA 24-5
9. DARRYLL TYSON
   Washington, D.C. 44-6-1
10. JAN BERGMAN
    South Africa 25-0

LIGHTWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 135 pounds

1. MIGUEL ANGEL GONZALEZ
   Mexico 35-0 (WBC Champ)
2. RAFAEL RUELAS
   Arleta, CA 42-1 (IBF Champ)
3. NAZAROV OLZUBEK
   Japan 20-0 (WBA Champ)
4. OSCAR DE LA HOYA
   Montebello, CA 16-0
5. MIGUEL JULIO
   Colombia 29-1-1
6. LEAVANDER JOHNSON
   Atlantic City, NJ 22-1-1
7. SHANE MOSLEY
   Pomona, CA 16-0
8. STEVE JOHNSTON
   Denver, CO 13-0
9. BILLY SCHWER
   England 26-1
10. IVAN ROBINSON
    Delran, NJ 16-0

JR. LIGHTWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 130 pounds

1. JOHN-JOHN MOLINA
   Puerto Rico 36-3 (IBF Champ)
2. GABE RUELAS
   Arleta, CA 40-2 (WBC Champ)
3. GENARO HERNANDEZ
   Los Angeles, CA 31-0-1 (WBA Champ)
4. JESSE JAMES LEIJA
   San Antonio, TX 28-1-2
5. AZUMAH NELSON
   Ghana 37-3-2
6. FREDDIE LIBERATORE
   Bayside, NY 20-3-1
7. REGGIE TUUR
   Whitestone, NY 36-3-1
8. ARTURO GATTI
   Jersey City, NJ 19-1
9. VICTOR HUGO PAZ
   Argentina 51-1-1
10. ED HOPSON
    St. Louis, MO 25-0

FEATHERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 126 pounds

1. ALEJANDRO GONZALEZ
   Mexico 35-2 (WBC Champ)
2. TOM JOHNSON
   Detroit, MI 37-2-1 (IBF Champ)
3. STEVE ROBINSON
   Wales 19-9-1
4. ELOY ROJAS
   Venezuela 30-1-1 (WBA Champ)
5. KEVIN KELLEY
   Flushing, NY 41-1
6. YUNG KYUN PARK
   South Korea 28-2-1
7. TRACY PATTERSON
   Highland, NY 51-3-1
8. EVER BELENO
   Colombia 29-1
9. ORLANDO SOTO
   Panama 24-1
10. MANUEL MEDINA
    Mexico 49-5

JR. FEATHERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 122 pounds

1. VUYANI BUNGU
   South Africa 25-2 (IBF Champ)
2. WILFREDO VASQUEZ
   Puerto Rico 42-6-3 (WBA Champ)
3. HECTOR ACERO-SANCHEZ
   New York, NY 31-2-2 (WBC Champ)
4. ORLANDO CANIZALES
   Laredo, TX 38-2-1
5. JULIO GERVACIO
   Puerto Rico 30-3-2
6. KENNEDY McKINNEY
   Las Vegas, NV 27-1-1
7. WELCOME NCITA
   South Africa 33-2
8. JESUS SALUD
   San Diego, CA 49-6
9. JUAN POLO-PEREZ
   Colombia 35-10-2
10. EDDIE CROFT
    San Mateo, CA 21-1-1

BANTAMWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 118 pounds

1. YASUEI YAKUSHIJI
   Japan 23-2-1 (WBC Champ)
2. DAORUNG MP PETROLEUM
   Thailand 54-4-1 (WBA Champ)
3. WAYNE McCULLOUGH
   Las Vegas, NV 15-0
4. NASEEM HAMED
   England 15-0
5. ELIECER JULIO
   Colombia 28-1
6. MARCO ANTONIO BARRERA
   Mexico 34-0
7. HAROLD MESTRE
   Colombia 21-2 (IBF Champ)
8. SERGIO REYES
   Fort Worth, TX 10-1
9. AL KOTEY
   England 19-1
10. NANA KONADU
    Ghana 33-2

JR. BANTAMWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 115 pounds

1. HAROLD GREY
   Colombia 18-0 (IBF Champ)
2. HIROSHI KAWASHIMA
   Japan 16-2-1 (WBC Champ)
3. JOHNNY TAPIA
   Albuquerque, NM 28-0-1
4. DANNY ROMERO
   Albuquerque, NM 22-0
5. HYUNG CHUL LEE
   South Korea 18-4 (WBA Champ)
6. JULIO BORBOA
   Mexico 23-5
7. KHAOYAI MAHASARAKAM
   Thailand 49-4
8. CECILIO ESPINO
   Huntington Park, CA 29-3-1
9. DAVID GRIMAN
   Venezuela 20-2
10. SATOSHI IIDA
    Japan 16-0

FLYWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 112 pounds

1. YURI ARBACHAKOV
   Japan 19-0 (WBC Champ)
2. SAN SOR PLOENCHIT
   Thailand 21-0 (WBA Champ)
3. MARK JOHNSON
   Washington, D.C. 21-1
4. MIGUEL MARTINEZ
   Mexico 28-7-1
5. JOSE LUIS ZEPEDA
   Mexico 23-12-2
6. ISAIAS ZAMUDIO
   Blythe, CA 37-5-1
7. JAKE MATLALA
   South Africa 42-9-1
8. ALBERTO JIMENEZ
   Mexico 27-3-2
9. ROBBIE REGAN
   Wales 15-1-3
10. CHATCHAI ELITE-GYM
    Thailand 18-0

JR. FLYWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 108 pounds

1. CHIQUITA GONZALEZ
   Mexico 40-2 (WBC/IBF Champ)
2. MICHAEL CARBAJAL
   Phoenix, AZ 32-2
3. LEO GAMEZ
   Venezuela 27-3-1 (WBA Champ)
4. MELCHOR COB CASTRO
   Mexico 42-4-4
5. CARLOS MURILLO
   Panama 27-2
6. JESUS CHONG
   Mexico 27-5
7. JOSE DeJESUS
   Puerto Rico 29-2-1
8. ERIC GRIFFIN
   Jasper, TN 14-2
9. ROBINSON CUESTA
   Panama 23-1
10. HADAO CP GYM
    Thailand 22-9-1

POUND-FOR-POUND

1. PERNELL WHITAKER
   Welterweight
2. ROY JONES
   Super Middleweight
3. RICARDO LOPEZ
   Strawweight
4. CHIQUITA GONZALEZ
   Junior Flyweight
5. FRANKIE RANDALL
   Junior Welterweight
6. FELIX TRINIDAD
   Welterweight
7. GERALD McCLELLAN
   Super Middleweight
8. MIGUEL ANGEL GONZALEZ
   Lightweight
9. JAMES TONEY
   Light Heavyweight
10. YURI ARBACHAKOV
    Flyweight

RYAN OUT LOUD

By Jeff Ryan

TAKE ME OUT TO THE BRAWL GAME

Hey, baseball fans, this Bud McGirt's for you! Fed up with that national pastime of yours, a sport with no balls and one big strike? Well, boxing, the universal sport of inclusion, says, "Give us your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to forget about tedious labor negotiations and replacement players." Scrap past allegiances and come on over to the Sweet Science for your fix of runs, hits, and errors.

Believe it or not, ball fans, boxing has much in common with baseball, and plenty of ways to keep you entertained. Don't worry if you don't know every nuance of the fight game. Many fight fans don't know much about baseball, either. Some of them believe you're talking about Muhammad Ali or Jimmy Ellis when you refer to a Louisville Slugger, they're convinced Mustafa Hamsho was the greatest catcher of the '80s, and they think The Babe is Joey Gamache's girlfriend of the moment. So don't fret.

Here are a dozen ways for you baseball junkies to avoid laboring through this labor dispute and instead seek comfort in the tender, loving arms of the fight game.

1) Become familiar with all the terms boxing has shamelessly stolen from baseball. Let's see now, we fight folk describe knockout punches as being "home runs," talk about a dominant fighter "pitching a shutout," refer to the challenger who is next in line for a title shot as being "on deck," and point to a fighter's "batting average" in big bouts.

You think Babe Ruth could eat all day? To be frank(furter), The Bambino never could have matched the appetite of Big George Foreman. Then again, Foreman hasn't hit 714 home runs, either.

Then there's some less-popular baseball terminology that the Sweet Science has lifted, such as "the three-bagger," which serves as a description of George Foreman's typical lunch order at Wendy's, and, of course, "the high, hard one," something that has gotten far too many fighters named in paternity suits.

2) Follow the careers of boxing personalities who remind everyone of great diamond stars. Babe Ruth once devoured 18 hot dogs in a sitting? Big deal. Foreman sees 18 franks turning on a grill and says, "Look, hors d'oeuvres!" Lou Gehrig played in 2,130 consecutive games? One boxing writer has attended 2,131 straight press conferences where free food was served. Sandy Koufax was difficult to hit? Pernell Whitaker is *impossible* to hit. Brooks Robinson never got handcuffed at third base? Well, Mike Tyson never got handcuffed—uh, forget that one.

3) Ponder a question that has boggled the minds of great thinkers for decades. If a catcher's equipment is known as the tools of ignorance, what should *boxing gloves* be called?

4) Discover how much baseball and boxing have in common. Both sports have historic Parks. Yours is Fenway, ours is Chong Pal. You had Shoeless Joe Jackson and the Black Sox Scandal. We had clueless Mike Tyson and the No Socks Scandal. An umpire once accused pitcher Joe Niekro of trying to hide a file. The IRS has often accused Don King of the same thing. Baseball has hot dogs, screwballs, and Pirates. So does boxing.

No doubt you baseball buffs are aware that a powerhitter in your sport, Al Kaline, is also a battery. But did you know that a Battery in our sport, Thai flyweight Chokchai 3-K Battery, is also a powerhitter?

5) Ask boxing's boys of summer to relate their baseball war stories. A few Sweet Scientists are awfully darn talented when they're wearing one glove instead of two. Terry Norris was a good enough high school centerfielder to warrant several college scholarship offers, and today, despite having won two world titles, he says, "Maybe I gave up on baseball too soon."

And as suggested by their play in a fighters vs. writers softball game of a few years ago, Livingstone Bramble and Vinny Pazienza might have been even better at robbing batters of base hits than they have been at stealing rounds. Bramble robbed yours truly of at least a triple with a spectacular running catch in the left-centerfield gap, and former high school standout Paz was so dazzling at shortstop, he made Ozzie Smith look like Ozzie Nelson.

6) Check out Seth Abraham's baseball cap collection. The New York office of The Grand Poobah of HBO Sports looks like a souvenir stand at the All-Star Game. Windowsills and shelves are crammed with enough headwear to outfit not just a starting lineup and a couple of batboys, but also Section 14 of the mezzanine.

7) Listen to a tape recording of boxing's answer to Abbott and Costello. That's James Toney and a Detroit radio host performing the much talked-about "Ho's On First" routine.

8) Attend a Kronk softball game. These affairs, organized by manager Emanuel Steward to promote unity in his stable, are fun to watch. The ground rules, though, can be confusing for first-time spectators. Just remember: If the ball rolls into the built-in pool, that's a ground-rule double, a shot over the servant's quarters is a home run, and Steward's Rolls-Royces are in fair territory.

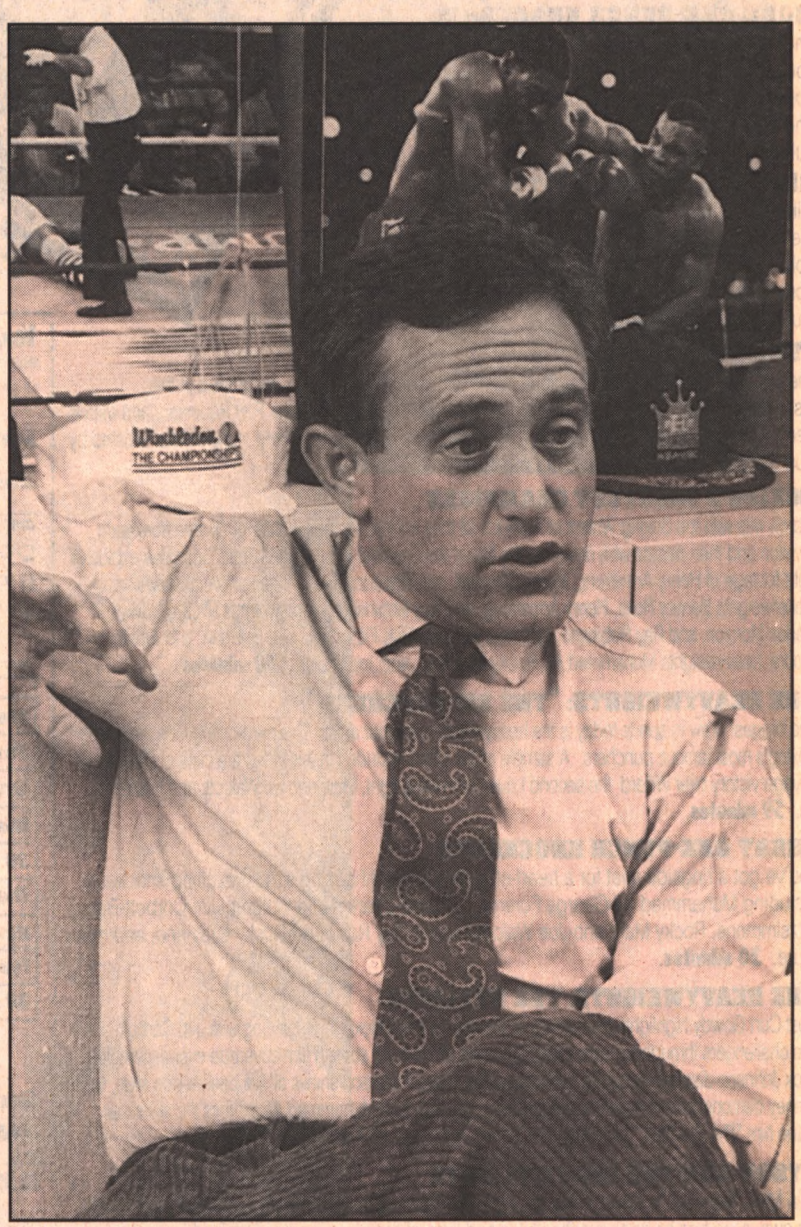
9) Watch films of great fights. Some of them, such as Hagler-Hearns, Chavez-Taylor I, and Ali-Frazier III, are almost as entertaining as Nolan Ryan rockin' Robin Ventura when the latter charged the mound two seasons ago. Almost.

10) Argue about who was better, Willie, Mickey, or The Duke. Granted, comparing the skill levels of Wilfredo Vasquez, Mickey Rourke, and Tommy Morrison isn't the most exciting way to spend a sunny Sunday afternoon, but it's no worse than watching the Mets start a replacement pitcher they just plucked out of a Bayonne beer league.

11) Rent boxing movies that have names similar to baseball movies. A screen biography of Foreman, *The Baby Ruth Story*, is good, as is *Bull In Durham*, a comedy about a Don King press conference in North Carolina. But skip the flick about the Duva family's reaction to one of its fighters' losses: *Eight Men Pout.*

12) Learn boxing songs that sound like baseball songs. Start with John Fogerty's popular "Center-ring." You know that one: "Put me in, Coach, I'm ready to flay today ... " After you've mastered that tune, move on to the fight fans' official anthem, "Take Me Out To The Brawl Game." All together now:

Take me out to the brawl game,
Let me get drunk and loud.
Buy me a 24-dollar T-shirt and another Bud Light,
I don't care if I get in a fight.
So let's root for the guy that I bet on,
If he don't win, it's a fix.
For it's eight, nine, 10—he's out cold!
Should have scalped my tix. ■



You want a boxing hat? You want a baseball hat? You want a tennis hat? No matter the game, HBO's Seth Abraham is your man. So why isn't he wearing a hat?

Turn your television into a ringside seat with these action-packed BOXING VIDEOS!

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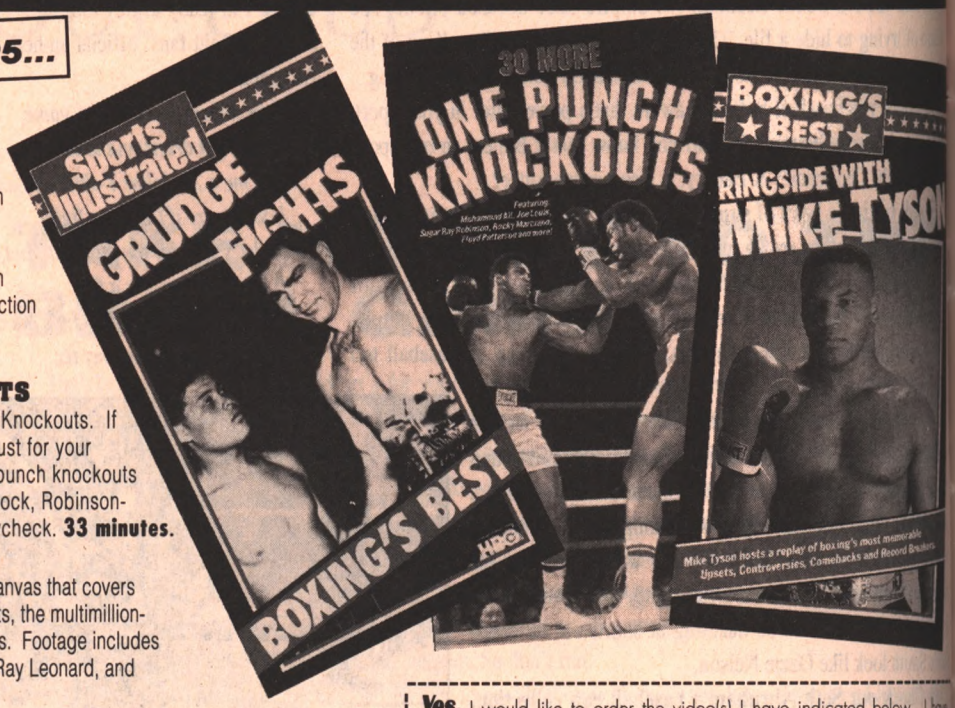

GRUDGE FIGHTS

The greatest grudge fights in boxing history are presented in this non-stop action video. See Jack Dempsey try to regain the title from Gene Tunney and Joe Louis seek revenge against Max Schmeling. Watch Joe Walcott battle Ezzard Charles and Rocky Marciano in epic wars, the Ali Frazier trilogy, plus a collection of rare footage that recounts boxing's most memorable bouts. **58 minutes.**

MORE ONE-PUNCH KNOCKOUTS

The exciting followup to Great One-Punch Knockouts. If you like knockout action, this video is a must for your collection. You'll see these fantastic one-punch knockouts and many more: Ali-Liston II, Louis-Braddock, Robinson-Fullmer, Patterson-Johansson II, Louis-Paycheck. **33 minutes.**

RINGSIDE WITH MIKE TYSON

Mike Tyson puts it all together in a colorful canvas that covers the main events, the controversies, the upsets, the multimillion-dollar gates, the records, and the comebacks. Footage includes Sonny Liston, Jake LaMotta, Ray Robinson, Ray Leonard, and much more. **44 minutes.**

THE MIDDLEWEIGHTS

The most skillful and devastating middleweights in the history of boxing are profiled in this fast-moving video. Watch stellar performances by Stanley Ketchel, Sugar Ray Robinson, and Marcel Cerdan. Also includes Rocky Graziano, Jake LaMotta, Carlos Monzon, and many others. Hosted by Curt Gowdy and Floyd Patterson. **58 minutes.**

BOXING'S GREATEST CHAMPIONS

Match wits with the Boxing Writers of America as they choose the best fighter of all-time from each division and then debate who deserves the title of the Greatest Fighter of All-Time. Includes explosive fight footage of Henry Armstrong, Benny Leonard, and Roberto Duran in the lightweight division; welterweights Barney Ross, Henry Armstrong, and Ray Robinson; middleweights Mickey Walker, Carlos Monzon, and Ray Robinson; light heavyweights Bob Fitzsimmons, Billy Conn, and Archie Moore; heavyweights Muhammad Ali, Rocky Marciano, and Joe Louis. **60 minutes.**

THE HEAVYWEIGHTS: "THE BIG PUNCHERS"

The biggest draw in sports today is the heavyweight knockout artist. This hard-hitting video explores boxing's most famous punchers. A sample of the action included in this video are clips of Dempsey's savage victory over Willard, the second Louis-Schmeling fight, Marciano vs. Walcott, and Frazier vs. Ali. **59 minutes.**

GREAT ONE-PUNCH KNOCKOUTS

You've got a ringside seat for a heart-stopping lineup of boxing's most exciting knockouts, including Muhammad Ali-George Foreman, Ezzard Charles-Joe Walcott, Jim Corbett-Bob Fitzsimmons, Rocky Marciano-Joe Walcott, Sugar Ray Robinson-Rocky Graziano, and many more. **30 minutes.**

THE HEAVYWEIGHTS: THE STYLISTS

Host Curt Gowdy highlights the careers of the sport's finest boxers. Beginning with Jim Corbett, you'll see challengers throughout history battle in some of the most striking film coverage ever assembled. Jack Johnson displays exquisite defensive skills, Floyd Patterson shows off his peek-a-boo style, Gene Tunney demonstrates the scientific approach to boxing, and Muhammad Ali exhibits the skills that made him "The Greatest," plus Walcott, Charles, and Louis. **57 minutes.**

TYSON AND THE HEAVYWEIGHTS

Join Mike Tyson as he takes a tour through the history of the heavyweight division. Tyson adds his own insight as he analyzes the styles and lives of the men who wore the heavyweight crown before him. This fantastic video includes rare footage of Jack Johnson, Jack Dempsey, Joe Louis, Rocky Marciano, Muhammad Ali, and, of course, Tyson himself. **51 minutes.**

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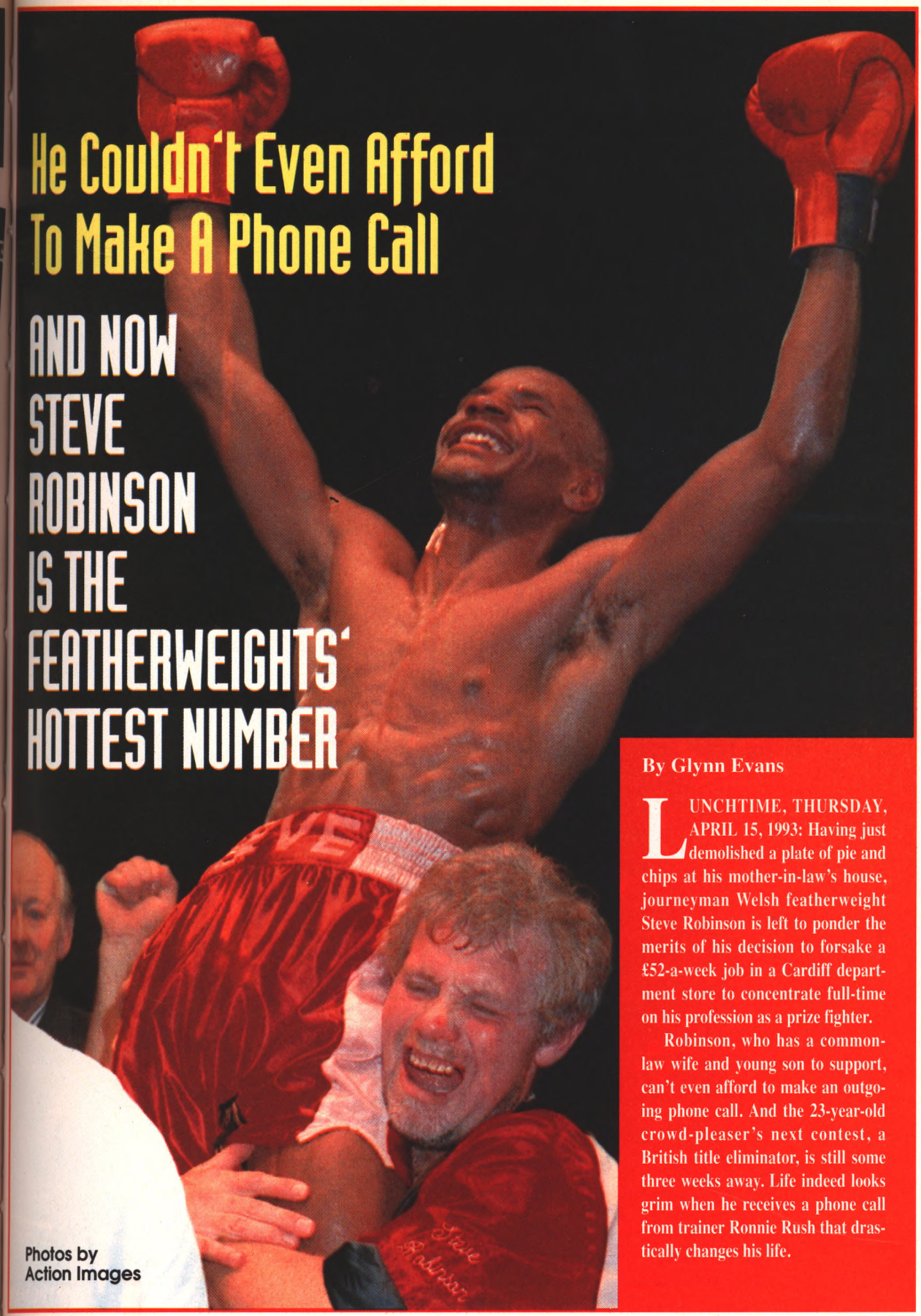
He Couldn't Even Afford To Make A Phone Call

AND NOW STEVE ROBINSON IS THE FEATHERWEIGHTS' HOTTEST NUMBER



Photos by Action Images

By Glynn Evans

LUNCHTIME, THURSDAY, APRIL 15, 1993: Having just demolished a plate of pie and chips at his mother-in-law's house, journeyman Welsh featherweight Steve Robinson is left to ponder the merits of his decision to forsake a £52-a-week job in a Cardiff department store to concentrate full-time on his profession as a prize fighter.

Robinson, who has a common-law wife and young son to support, can't even afford to make an outgoing phone call. And the 23-year-old crowd-pleaser's next contest, a British title eliminator, is still some three weeks away. Life indeed looks grim when he receives a phone call from trainer Ronnie Rush that drastically changes his life.

MORNING, SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2, 1994: National icon Robinson has just completed his fifth successful defense of the spurious WBO featherweight crown. As the highest-earning 126-pounder in the sport, he wouldn't dream of flaunting his talents publicly for anything less than a six-figure paycheck.

***

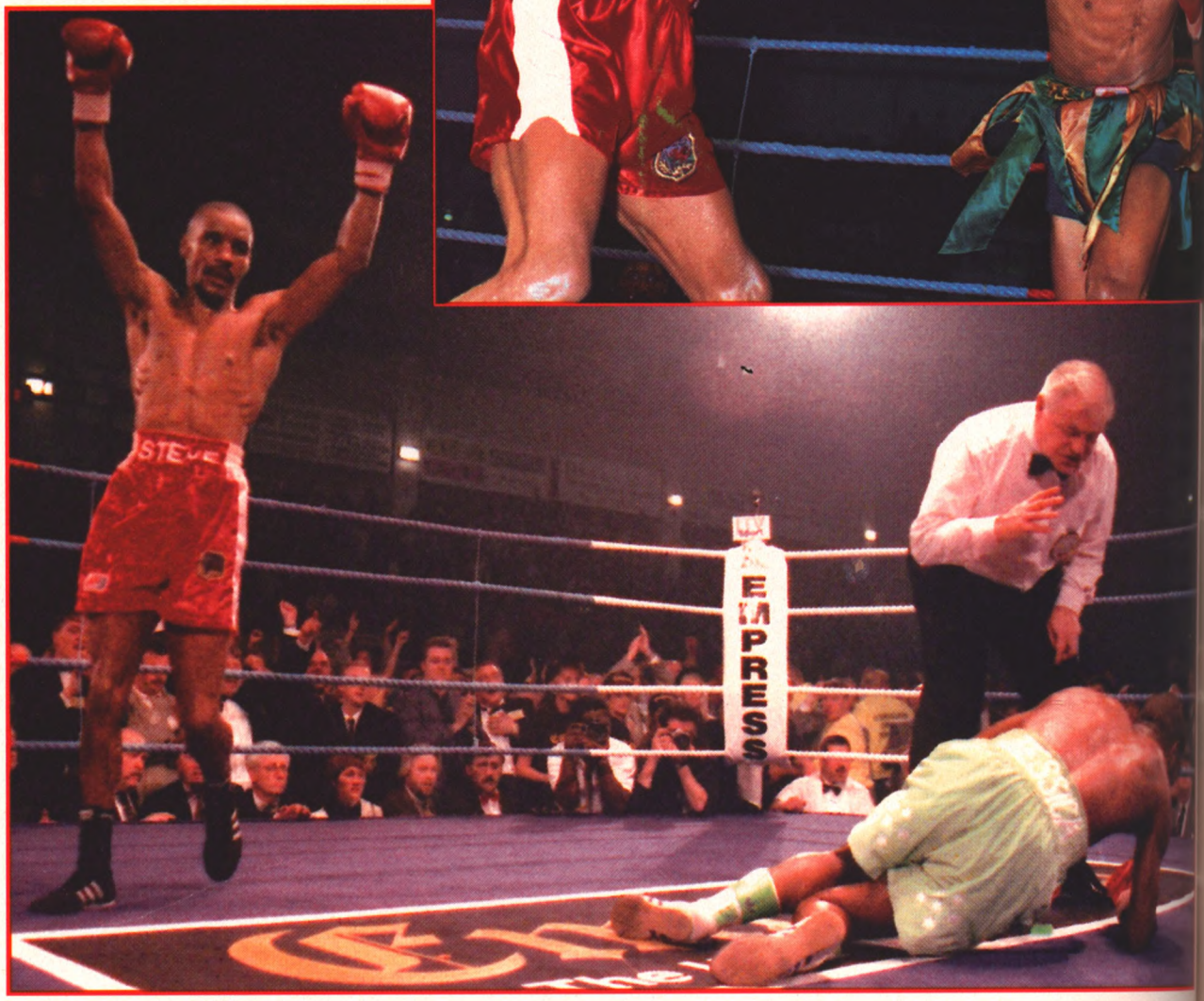
On the line that spring noon in 1993, the excited tones of Rush bore news that Colombian Ruben Palacio had tested HIV-positive less than 48 hours before his scheduled first defense of the WBO featherweight crown against John Davison.

This unfortunate episode left the English challenger without fodder to feast on before a sellout crowd of 3,500 in his hometown of Newcastle, and the TV moguls were harboring an unwanted vacancy. More pointedly, with the WBO in danger of losing a handsome sanctioning fee, the governing body controversially approved the unrated Welshman as a suitable replacement.

But would Team Robinson give consent?

Scorched by the press for pitching Robinson's compatriot Johnny Owen into a fatal battle with Lupe Pintor at the Olympic Auditorium in Los Angeles 13 years before, the Welshman's manager, Dai Gardiner, was understandably hesitant about accepting the task under such unfavorable circumstances. He was not alone; Robinson himself now admits he was unsure whether he would be up to the job.

"Given two weeks notice, I'd definitely have fancied it, but two *days*?" he said. "Deep down, I knew I hadn't really prepared for the fight. At the time, I guess I was only about 80 percent fit, but



In October 1993, Robinson outpointed 3-1 favorite Colin McMillan in Cardiff (right). One year later, he cemented his status as a top-level featherweight by halting the accomplished Duke McKenzie with a body blow (below).

Ronnie yelled, 'This is your chance, and we know you can beat Davison. At least give it a go.'"

With no time to dally, Robinson accepted the gauntlet, the risk doubtlessly sweetened by a £12,000 ($18,000) purse that quadrupled his previous best. Yet he had little cause for optimism. A two-division former WBC International titleholder with only three defeats in 19 contests, Davison was armed with the advantage of a wildly partisan home crowd. In contrast, Robinson had been victorious in only 13 of his 23 pro starts (with one draw), and still scaled six pounds above the featherweight limit.

"I put plenty of clothes on and just loosened up to put on a sweat, and the weight came off surprisingly easily. Then I just rested up," recalled the Cardiff-born champion.

"The atmosphere inside that arena was just amazing. The noise was so piercing that you just couldn't hear [Davison's] name when he was introduced."

Despite entering his 35th year, Davison had a well-earned reputation for destruction and was heavily favored to blast right through this unknown late substitute. However, by boxing calmly behind a water-tight guard, Robinson assumed an early command. He had established a comfortable lead when, at the end of the seventh, he returned to his corner complaining of cramps in his toes. Rush, a seasoned former pro, supplied an instant remedy—he stomped on them!

"You're a Welshman," he yelled, "and Welshmen don't give in. That just don't happen. You've got a son at home. Let's see you show him some of this Welsh *hwy* [spirit]!"

His hindrance rectified, Robinson's superior conditioning enabled him to finish much the stronger, and indeed, over the last 30 seconds of the final round, the local man was subjected to an unholy two-fisted beating.

When a majority verdict was announced, Robinson had good cause to expect the worst. He had been fleeced by the judiciary on more occasions that he'd care to recall during his tough ring apprenticeship in the English small halls, but he need not have feared. Two scores of 115-114 against a 116-115 for Davison saw that justice was served and confirmed a glorious Welsh victory.

Few experts picked Robinson to defeat former WBC champion Paul Hodkinson, but the Welshman managed to halt the ever-charging Hoko in the 12th and final round. Robinson calls this his finest fight to date.

Robinson's gutter-to-glory fairy tale began when, at the age of nine, he joined the local Ely Star Amateur Boxing Club, where Rush was overlord. After displaying considerable promise in a 14-bout schoolboy career, Robinson abandoned the Sweet Science for six teenage years to savor the vices of his youth. Therefore, Rush was skeptical of Robinson's commitment when the 19-year-old returned to the gym and began making ambitious noises of a professional career.

Before allowing his charge to disguard his headgear, the jocular West Indian trainer, who, despite standing only five-feet tall, once held a high school jump record of 5'1", insisted Robinson complete an intensive crash course of eight senior amateur contests inside a nine-week span. Yet, with no formal competition, let alone international experience, to call on when he turned pro in March 1989, Robinson soon discovered the harsher realities of "the hardest game."

Equipped with only the most basic grasp of rudimentary technique, the willing novice, usually at minimal notice, was invariably cast in the role of opponent to a sheltered star from an elite English stable. It was hardly surprising, then, that he was victorious in only half of his initial 18 contests. Yet Robinson took solace from the knowledge that not only was his loss column infested with a string of heinous hometown verdicts, but it also included the names of quality practioners such as Neil Haddock, Drew Docherty, Tim Driscoll, and Alan McKay, all of whom have fought for British championships. None was able to stop him, and only Driscoll had him on the canvas.

Throughout the austere ring education, Robinson proved himself a very able student, and eventually his fortunes turned. Ironically, the only loss in 11 contests since October 1992 came in the fight preceding his championship-winning success, when he dropped a controversial eight-round verdict to Medhi Labdouani, who now reigns on the European featherweight throne.

Outside of office hours, the sedate, respectful, ever-grinning father of two sons remains a man of disarming ordinariness who expresses a clear

(Continued on page 71)

Tszyu Review

HE'S THE BEST YOUNG FIGHTER IN THE GAME

Photos by Tom Casino

By Ed Maloney

Boxing writers are forever being barraged with calls from promoters, managers, trainers, and publicists, telling them of the latest all-world young talent. These sponsors use the same tired, old cliches: "You've got to see this kid ... hardest puncher since Marciano ... goes to the body like Duran ... best jab since Holmes ... more focused than Chavez ... moves like Ali ... a chin like Hagler ... gets hit less than Whitaker ... only weighs 135, but knocks

Tszyu had no trouble with Rodriguez' southpaw stance, scoring with both hands and always looking to powerpunch with his right cross (above). In all, the Russian-born challenger registered five knockdowns (below). His title-winning effort was one of the most impressive displays of kayo power in recent memory.

out middleweights in the gym ..." More times than not, they're not only exaggerating, they're downright lying.

In the past several years, public relation campaigns have been waged for prospects such as flyweight Paul Gonzales, featherweight Ricardo Cepeda, light heavyweight Andrew Maynard, and heavyweight Tommy Morrison. Not only did none of them win world titles, but all failed miserably when faced with world-class opposition. That wasn't the case when Australia-based promoter Bill Mordey heralded the pro debut of junior welterweight Kostya Tszyu.

In December 1991, THE RING contacted Mordey, seeking press credentials for the Jeff Fenech-Azumah Nelson rematch, to be held in March 1992 in Melbourne. It was surely going to be the largest-grossing bout ever staged in the land Down Under. But Mordey, the promoter for that historic card, spent about 18 minutes of the 20-minute phone call talking about this new Russian kid with a funny name who, he said, was the best prospect he'd seen in the 40 years he'd been around boxing. "I guarantee he'll be a world champion," Mordey said. "He's not far from being a top-10 pro junior welterweight right now."

Yawn. Now back to those credentials, Bill. Will we be seated in the *first* row of the press section or ...

Three months later, and just four months removed from winning the amateur light welterweight title at the 1991 World Championships in Sydney, Tszyu disposed of his first pro opponent in just 55 seconds. Within months, boxing insiders were talking about "the Russian." Many hadn't even seen him fight. But they had heard. Meanwhile, in only his fourth pro fight, Tszyu decisioned former champion Juan LaPorte over 10 rounds. In November '92, rugged Sammy Fuentes, who had given Julio Cesar Chavez 10 tough rounds, fell in one, and two months after that, Americans caught a glimpse of Tszyu when highlights of his two-round demolition of Steve Larrimore were aired on Showtime.

"I sparred with Greg Haugen when I was training for my first fight with Nelson, and I've sparred with Kostya," three-division former champion Fenech said at the time. "On his best day, Haugen couldn't live with Kostya. I believe Kostya could beat Chavez right now."

But you didn't have to spar with Tszyu to be impressed. Fenech's opinion aside, Tszyu did have something in common with Haugen: Both were top-10 fighters. Tszyu, however, had engaged in only seven pro bouts.

After Tszyu scored a one-sided decision over another former champion, Livingstone Bramble, Mordey's America-based matchmaker, Mike Acri, lowered the age requirement of Tszyu's opponents, increasing the level of the fighter's competition for the 1994 campaign. The Red Army veteran easily met the challenge, steamrolling opponents much the way his predecessors had devastated the retreating Germans in the second half of World War II; always on the offensive, never letting up.

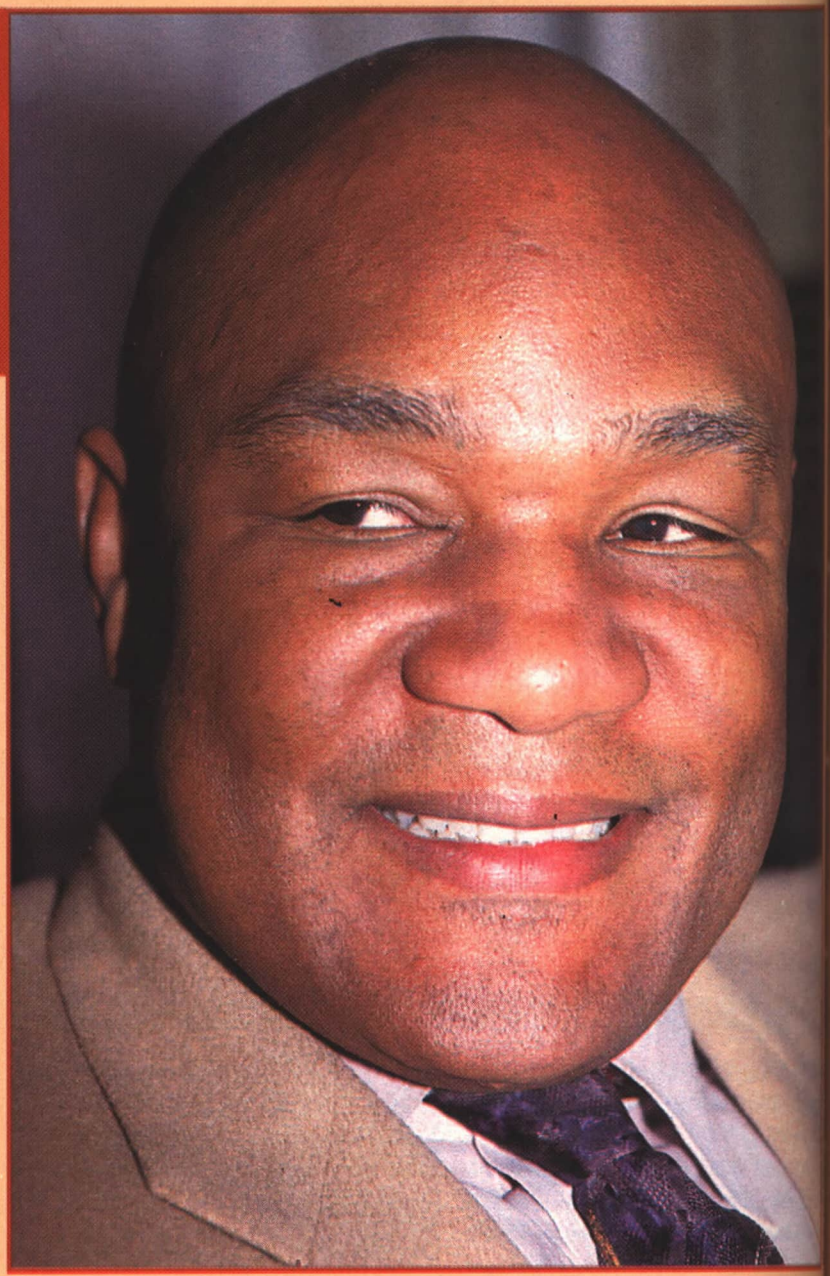
In January 1994, American boxing fans witnessed Tszyu wage a 10-round war with Hector Lopez, who had previously gone the distance

(Continued on page 73)

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW:

FOREMAN FROWNS UPON THE AGE GAP

"I Don't Think Tyson Should Fight Anyone But Me"



George Foreman is just as amazing outside in the ring as inside. On February 14, the first defense of Foreman's second reign as heavyweight champion was announced at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in New York City. On April 22, at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas, Foreman will take on Germany's unranked Axel Schulz. But no one had come to see the challenger. Big George addressed the entire gathering, drawing thigh-slapping laughs with his standup routine regarding the virtues of being fortysomething. Then he spoke with clusters of newspaper writers and columnists. He followed with countless five-minute spots with sundry TV stations. Next came a few on-camera promos. Then another handful of TV interviews. Then Foreman went to his room, where THE RING *Editor-in-Chief Steve Farhood spoke with him before the champion left for LaGuardia Airport. Incredibly, he would fly to Los Angeles, where he would star at another press conference later that day.*

And to think, in a 1976 interview with THE RING, *Foreman spoke of how difficult it was for him to give interviews. "It takes a lot out of me," he said.*

Foreman and Farhood weren't alone. In the room were several of Foreman's traveling companions, including his lawyer, Henry Holmes. Also in attendance were promoter Butch Lewis, attorney Milt Chwasky, and New Jersey boxing commissioner Larry Hazzard. Everyone wanted a piece of George, but during his interview with THE RING, *he remained remarkably focused, even in his fifth hour of almost non-stop talking.*

THE RING: What exactly is an Axel Schulz?

George Foreman: Well, all I gotta do is start thinking what Michael Moorer was thinking before he fought George Foreman. If that happens, Axel Schulz could be the next heavyweight champion of the world. I'm not taking Axel Schulz for granted.

THE RING: Was Schulz your personal choice?

GF: No, Bob Arum, who has the opportunity to promote all my fights, went out there, and that's who he came back with.

THE RING: You've always kidded about not wanting to fight anyone too tough. How much of that is kidding and how much is the truth?

GF: If you're gonna be a boxer, everyone is tough, so literally I'm telling the truth. Anyone who tells you they want to fight someone tough and rough, they're lying to you. You want to get out there and have an easy time of it. But it just so happens that once a guy gets to be 200 pounds, it's never easy for you.

THE RING: The first time you were champion, you fought Joe Roman in your initial defense. Some people think it's a newly crowned heavyweight champion's right to take a soft opponent for his first defense. Do you agree?

GF: That doesn't exist anymore. Buster Douglas, new heavyweight champion of the world, first title defense—what happened? Lost the title. Holyfield went out to get an easy fight, and there he was holding me in the 12th round. Holding on for dear life. Michael Moorer, first defense, people said George Foreman was supposed to be easy, but I think Michael Moorer might have thought differently.

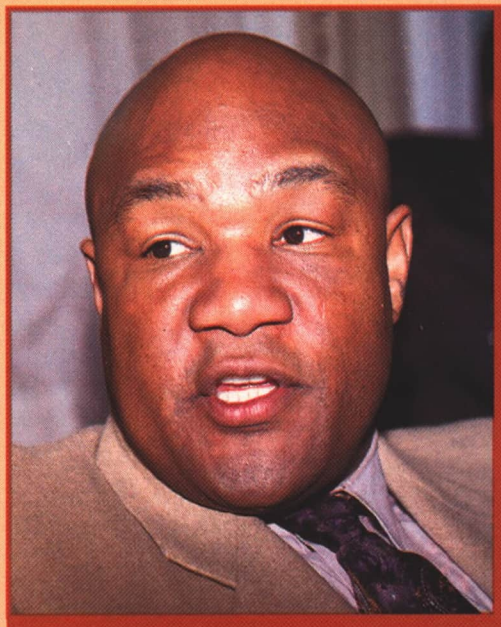
THE RING: When and if you beat Axel Schulz ...

GF: It's an "if."

THE RING: *If* you beat Axel Schulz, there will be only one fight the public will really want to see, and that's George Foreman vs. Mike Tyson. Tyson will need some time to get the rust off. Will you wait around for him?

GF: The major victory for boxing, for mankind, is that I'm a 46-year-old man, and the dreaded Mike Tyson can't fight me just like that. Think about that. He can't just fight George, he's gotta get the rust off. What does that tell you about the world? It tells you the world is in good shape, the planet is surviving, and the toughest guy is a senior. And even the baddest guy is being told, "You have to get in shape, gotta get the rust off to fight George Foreman." Now I'm a 7-1 favorite to defend the heavyweight title (against Schulz). I don't look at it as a personal achievement, but as an achievement for the world.

Photo by Jason Ross Lavin



"If Tyson wants a shot at the heavyweight championship, he'll have to get out there and enjoy his freedom as best he can, and then if he wants a shot with me as champion, he's gonna have to get out there and do it pretty quick."

THE RING: Would you wait for Tyson if it meant waiting all the way until 1996?

GF: No. If I beat Axel Schulz and Tyson wants a shot at the heavyweight championship, he'll have to get out there and enjoy his freedom as best he can, and then if he wants a shot with me as champion, he's gonna have to get out there and do it pretty quick.

THE RING: What is the single-most interesting or intriguing thing about fighting Mike Tyson for you?

GF: I'm not intrigued.

THE RING: Why, then, would you want the fight?

GF: Because people talk about it a lot, and as a rule, you want to satisfy as many people as you can. It seems to be something the promoters talk about, the people talk

Photo by Teddy Blucktburn

Foreman insists he's taking his first title challenger, Germany's unaccomplished Axel Schulz, seriously. But insiders are already talking about a Foreman-Mike Tyson shootout for down the road.

Photo by Jason Ross Lavin

"We'd go out there and slug it out, boy, and I'd go back to my corner yelling, 'Yeeee, doggie!' And he'd go back to his corner—maybe."

about. So you reward them with what they really, truly want.

THE RING: Who should be favored if George Foreman fights Mike Tyson?

GF: My banker (*laughs*).

THE RING: And *his* banker, too.

GF: Yeah, but my banker's gonna get more (*laughs*).

THE RING: If Tyson shows a lot in his comeback fights, will that affect whether you will want to fight him or not?

GF: Not at all. If he gets out of jail and starts to enjoy his freedom, I don't think he should fight anyone but me. For what? Go into the gym and sweat. After all, I'm just a 46-year-old guy. What's he need a bunch of tuneups for an old guy like me? Shame on him.

THE RING: After you won the title, you said at a press conference in New York that you wanted to keep the WBA and IBF happy. But in fighting Axel Schulz, you're not doing that, at least as far as the WBA is concerned. He's unrated, and they're likely to strip you. Did you have a change of heart?

GF: The IBF is gonna sanction the fight. There's been a breakdown in communications with the WBA. I've been busy; I haven't gotten the chance to sit with these guys and talk with them, explain to them how important their title is to me. I'm my own manager as you know, but I've been celebrating myself as a boxer and have forgotten to get down to the raw business with the authorities of what my future is with the WBA. The WBA belt is the one I won in 1974, 21 years ago. So is it important to me? Yes! I don't want them to think this isn't important to me. This is very important to me. I want to represent the WBA, I want to wear their belt with pride and in good taste until I get ready to leave.

THE RING: So you're still hopeful you can remain WBA champion and take care of this before the Schulz fight?

GF: No doubt about it. It's only about communicating. They didn't speak to me personally. They had a meeting. I wasn't there, because I had other obligations. But probably they misunderstood (my position) for arrogance, and I do care. I want to keep their title.

THE RING: Is it important to you where historians rank you in regard to the other heavyweight champions in history?

GF: Today is important to me. I hope they view me as a guy who lived longer than any guy who ever boxed. I don't want to be forgotten, I just want to live and be thought of.

THE RING: Would you rather be remembered as the number-one most popular fighter or the number-one ranked heavyweight?

GF: I'm not into that right now. I'm just having a ball. And for those who read the magazine who have restaurants—I'd like for them to send me an invitation to eat with them (*laughs*).

THE RING: Briefly describe a fight with the old George, meaning the young George of 1974 vs. the new George, meaning the old George of 1995.

GF: I could whip him. I'm more patient now, I've still got as much punching power and I'm tricky. The thing back then was my desire and explosiveness. I could overcome that now.

THE RING: What about a matchup between today's George Foreman and today's Mike Tyson, assuming Tyson is about the same fighter as he was three-plus years ago?

GF: Well, let's see. There'd be a lot of hullyhoo about it, and we'd want to wait for the proper time. But if he maintains the toughness he had years ago and is still eager to mix it up, it's a match made in heaven, as far as style go.

THE RING: You mean a match made in heaven for *you*?

GF: We'd go out there and slug it out, boy, and I'd go back to my corner yelling, "Yeeee, doggie!" And he'd go back to his corner—maybe (*laughs*).

THE RING: During your comeback, was there

(Continued on page

At the ESPY awards, the winners included NFL running back Barry Sanders and Big George. Since he kayoed Michael Moorer, Foreman's life has been one big celebration.

SPECIAL SECTION

HISTORY'S 10 LEAST-DESERVING HEAVYWEIGHT TITLE CHALLENGERS

By Steve Farhood

We already knew George Foreman was bigger than just about every other heavyweight in the world. Apparently, Foreman has decided he's bigger than boxing, too. On April 22, at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas, the WBA-IBF champion will square off against the unrated Axel Schulz. The WBA, which opposes the bout, will likely strip Foreman, leaving retreads Tony Tucker and Bruce Seldon to fight for the vacant crown. The IBF isn't too happy about Foreman-Schulz either, but Foreman is likely to keep that belt a while longer.

Just who is Axel Schulz? For starters, you should know the 26-year-old German is 1-for-1 in bouts against Bonecrusher Smith, but 0-for-2 in tries for the European title. Overall, he's 21-1-1 (10), with the loss and draw having come against England's Henry Akinwande. He was 78-20 as an amateur, winning four East German championships, a silver medal at the European championships, and a bronze medal at the world championships. He'll be the third German to fight for the heavyweight title, following Max Schmeling and Karl Mildenberger.

Given his underwhelming credentials, Schulz inarguably belongs on a list of the least-deserving heavyweight title challengers of all-time. For now, we'll rank him number 11. In compiling our top 10, we decided to begin with the reign of Joe Louis. Arguments can be made for such hapless heavyweights as Jem Roche, Jewey Smith, and Jack Palmer, all of whom challenged barnstorming titlist Tommy Burns in 1908, or Tony Ross, one of the White Hopes who took on Jack Johnson in 1909. But boxing was a free-for-all in those days, with no recordkeepers or sanctioning bodies serving to discourage mismatches. By the time Louis formed "The Bum Of The Month Club," fighters, managers, and promoters had to contend with the often intense scrutiny of the media.

(Remember, we've chosen the least-deserving challengers, and not necessarily the worst, a subtle distinction that pertains to our number-one pick, if not some of the others.)

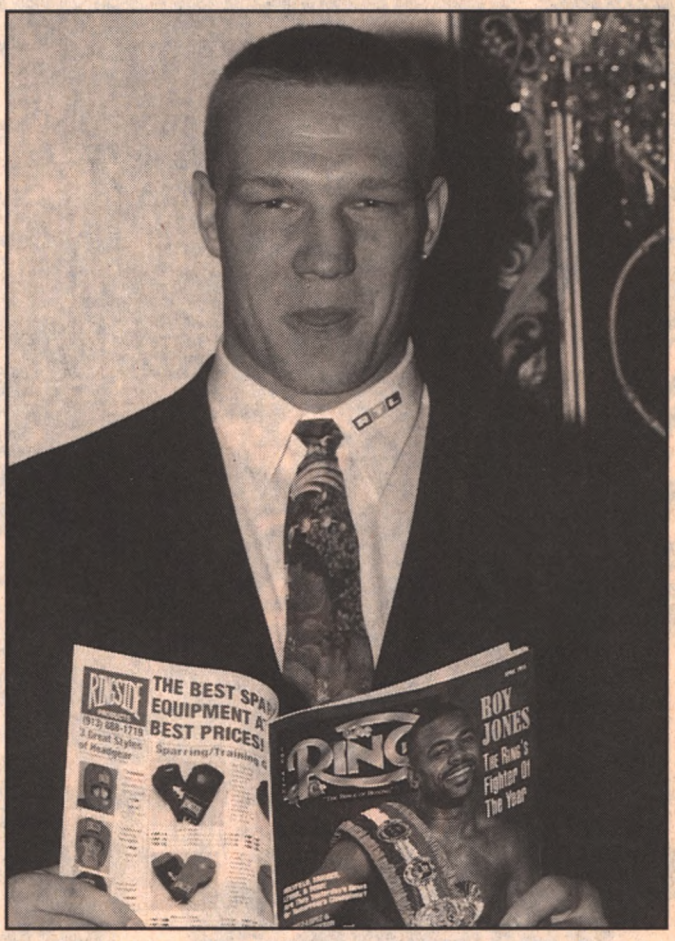


Photo by Jason Ross Lavin

Axel Schulz seems to be enjoying the April 1995 issue of The Ring. *But when the 26-year-old German challenger finds out he was the inspiration for this section, his attitude just might change.*

Hey, Axel: No matter how much criticism you're forced to absorb, keep your chin up (and right where Big George can reach it). And always remember you're in some pretty good (or pretty bad) company.

PETE RADEMACHER

At the weigh-in, Rademacher looked both bigger and older than Patterson. But he certainly wasn't more experienced, having never before fought as a professional.

THE FIGHTER

A schemer and salesman as m as Tex Rickard and Doc Kearns e were, Rademacher believed it was that he won the Olympic heavywei gold medal on the same day Patter won the vacant world heavyweig title. It was Rademacher's idea to fi for the biggest prize in sports in pro debut. (What he didn't tell anyo was that if he won, he was going retire and go into business.) Everyo thought he was crazy except for t person who mattered most. That w because Cus D'Amato, who manage Patterson, was promised a $200,0 guarantee.

"I'm asked to fight an amateur f $200,000 ..." said Patterson, justify his decision to accept what ma observers viewed as a circus act.

On November 30, 1956, Ra macher took home the gold by k oing Lev Moukhine in the first rou in Melbourne, Australia. On that sam day in Chicago, Patterson became th youngest heavyweight champion in hi tory by stopping 42-year-old Arc Moore in five rounds.

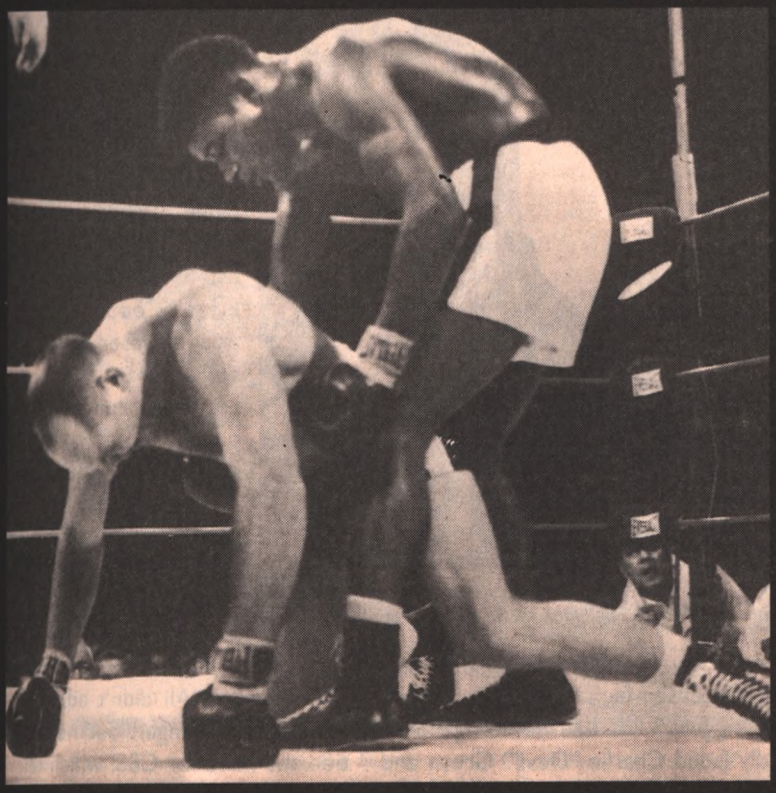
"If Patterson beats Moore, Pa terson's a young punk kid," explai the 27-year-old Rademacher after unlikely try at the title. "If Moore w he's an old man. I thought I could h dle myself with either of them beca mechanically I knew as much as al them. But physically, I wasn't prepare

THE FIGHT

A master of prefight hype, Ra macher convinced at least some me bers of the press that he had a chan

FLOYD PATTERSON KO 6 PETE RADEMACHER

August 22, 1957
Seattle, Washington



Is Patterson trying to help Rademacher rise? The gutty challenger crashed no less than seven times before being counted out late in round six.

New York Post Sports

48 NEW YORK, FRIDAY, AUGUST 23, 1957

Patterson Won All Right... But It Took 6 Rounds

Still, the fight ended up at Seattle's Sicks Stadium because no one else would have it. (The attendance was a disappointing 16,961, guaranteeing Rademacher a purse of zero.) The challenger trained for a six- or seven-round fight; he planned to blitz Patterson and try for a quick kayo. If the champion didn't cooperate, Rademacher, who had never fought past three rounds, would be resigned to his fate.

It was fun while it lasted. Rademacher, 202, captured the first round, then came achingly close to shocking the world by dropping Patterson, 187¼, in the second. But as often as he fell down, Patterson always made sure to get up. In the third, it was Rademacher who crashed. He fell four more times in the fifth and twice more in the sixth. After Patterson felled him with a left uppercut, referee Tommy Loughran counted out the challenger at the 2:57 mark.

Wrote columnist Frank Graham, "An amateur [Rademacher] may be in the science of boxing, but he took punishment like a professional."

Rademacher fought on after his extraordinary debut, but in compiling an overall mark of 17-6-1, never established himself as a legitimate contender. For this unique man, however, boxing was a mere steppingstone. Rademacher went on to become president of the Kiefer-McNeil division of the Akron-based McNeil Corporation. He also worked as a professional shooting instructor, secured five patents, and became a spokesman for the American Cancer Society.

At age 65, Rademacher remains fighting-fit. Are you listening, George?

JEAN-PIERRE COOPMAN

Whenever Ali practiced psychological warfare, Coopman, who spoke no English, simply smiled. He didn't try to hide the fact that he idolized the champion. The 10,000-plus fans that were on hand didn't expect much of a fight.

THE FIGHTER

"The Lion Of Flanders" had the smile of a pussycat. He also spoke no English, which severely restricted the prefight antics of "The Greatest." Preparing for the fifth defense of his second reign, and his first fight since the draining Thrilla in Manila vs. Joe Frazier, the 34-year-old Ali did muster one classic line: He said of the unrated Coopman, "He wants his children to have the honor of saying, 'My daddy fought for the heavyweight title of the world. He got his ass kicked, but he fought.'"

The 29-year-old Coopman was 24-3 (14). However, he was more adept at sculpting religious figures out of stone than boxing. He was billed as the heavyweight champion of Belgium, even though there were only five other licensed big men in the country. His biggest wins had come against a badly faded Charlie "Devil" Green and former world title challenger Terry Daniels, who had dropped Coopman before being disqualified for butting. And as if he needed another reason to fail, he had fought outside of Belgium only once.

After the match was made, the WBC threatened to suspend the challenger's manager, Karel de Jaegher, for approving a bout that was "detrimental to boxing and a fraud to the public." Even Ali's trainer, Angelo Dundee, struggled to hype the fight. "[Ali's] had trouble with bums," he said. "He's concerned about a letdown."

A *letdown?* As Thomas Hauser wrote in *Muhammad Ali: His Life And Times*, "The Lion Of Flanders might not have beaten Ben Lahr."

THE FIGHT

More than 10,000 fans came to Roberto Clemente Coliseum, but only the most naive of them expected to see a fight. Ali, 226, quickly established his jab, and the 6-foot Coopman, 206, who was supposed to be a pressure fighter, never came close to landing a solid punch.

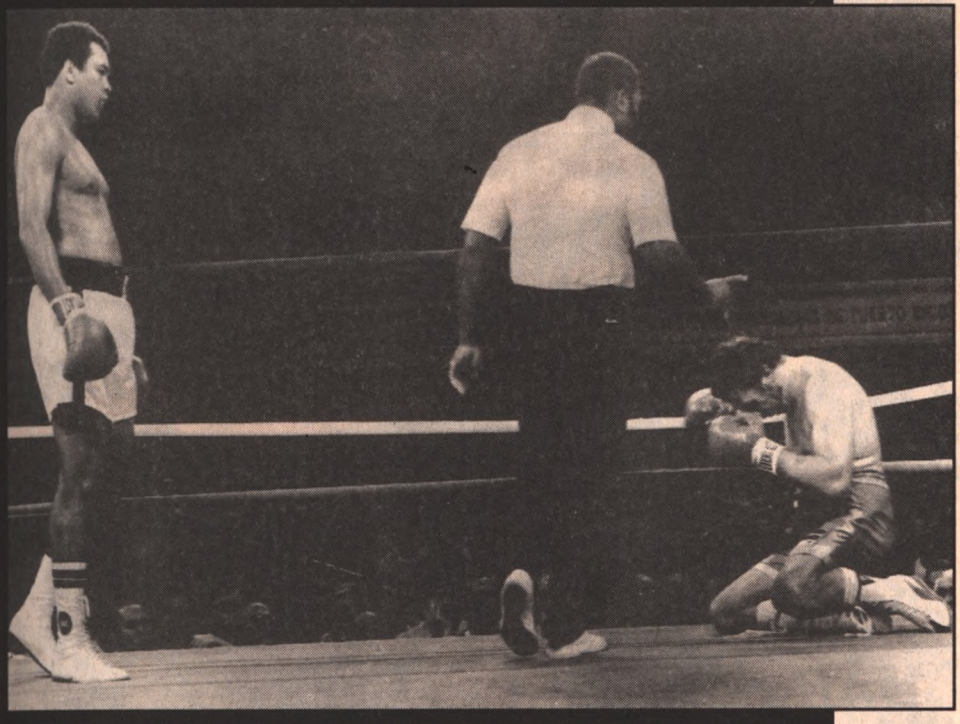
"The red mittens on his hands," *Newsday's* Joe Gergen wrote of Coopman, "appeared to be only accessories, chosen for the manner in which they complemented his racy red and gold trunks."

Afterward, Ali didn't admit to carrying the challenger, but he did mention the need for CBS, which televised the bout in prime time, to run at least a few between-rounds commercials. As a result, the champion featured flashes of his entire repertoire: he rope-a-doped, danced, shuffled, clinched, mugged to the cameras, and ogled the round-card girls. In the fifth he punched a bit, too, and after Coopman absorbed a right uppercut he fell in a delayed reaction. The Lion, quite tamed, was counted out by referee Ismael Quinones Falu at the 2:4 mark.

"The whole stadium was going around in circles," he said. "I tried to stay up, but it felt like 500 pounds pulling on me and I fell. There was no

MUHAMMAD ALI KO 5 JEAN-PIERRE COOPMAN

February 20, 1976
Hato Rey, Puerto Rico



Was it Ali's punches or the champagne's bubbles that left Coopman with a headache? "The Greatest" did his best to extend the bout, finally felling Coopman in the fifth.

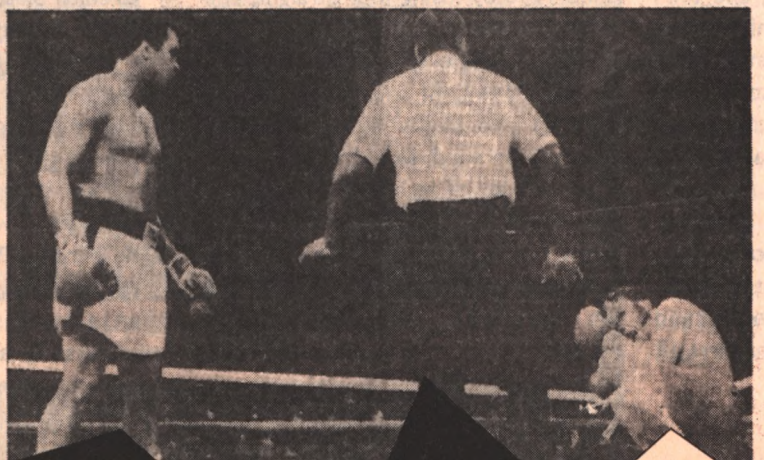
way I could get up."

There might have been another reason for Coopman's inability to rise: George Kanter, the challenger's international agent, swears Coopman drank champagne both before the fight and between rounds.

Coopman may have been the weakest of Ali's 25 world title fight opponents—and that includes Brian London, Chuck Wepner, and Richard Dunn. He fought through the early-'80s, compiling an overall mark of 35-16-1 (20). His sole highlight came in 1977, when he won the European title by knocking out Jose Urtain. But he was dethroned less than two months later by Lucien Rodriguez, and subsequently suffered the ignominy of losing in one round to Alfredo Evangelista.

Meow.

Ali's Uppercut Knocks Out Coopman At 2:46 of Fifth Round in San Juan



Champion Has Little Trouble in Victory

By DAVE ANDERSON
Special to The New York Times

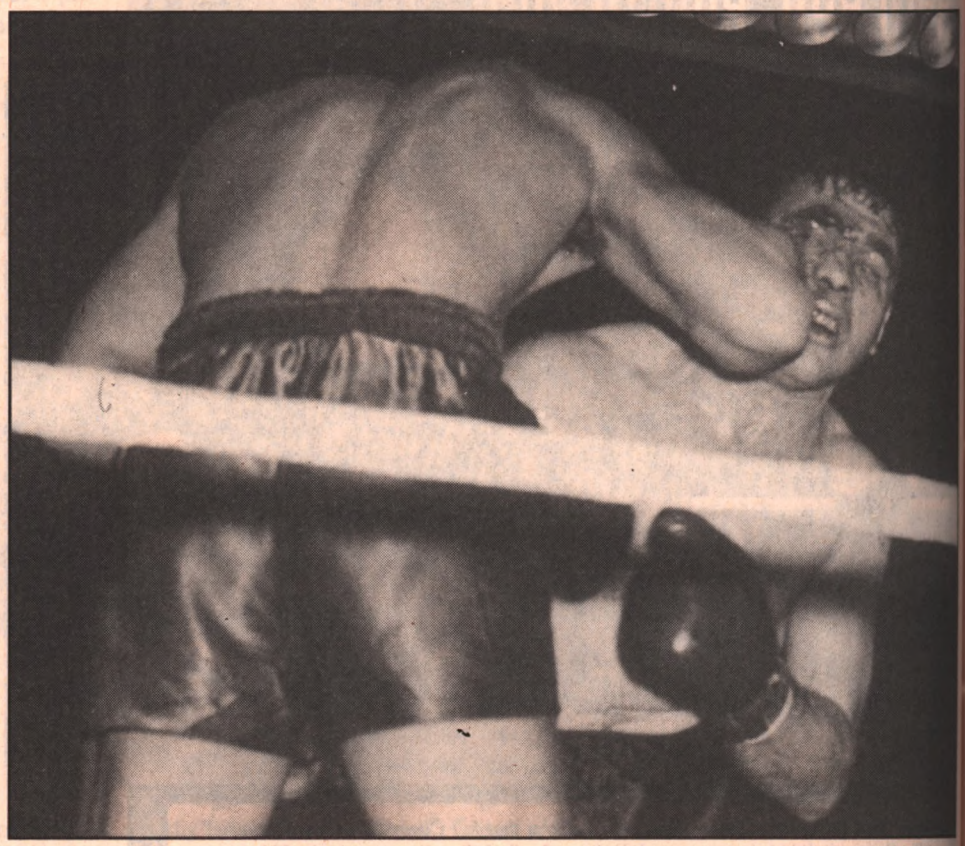
SAN JUAN, P.R., Feb. 20—As easily as Clyde Beatty used to tame the lions in his circus act, Muhammad Ali retained the world heavyweight boxing championship tonight with a fifth-round knockout of Jean-Pierre Coopman, the alleged Lion of Flanders, before a noisy gathering of 10,000 spectators in the Roberto Clemente Coliseum.

With a flurry of punches culminated by a right uppercut, Ali toppled the 29-year-old challenger into the ropes. Trying to regain his equilibrium, Coopman wobbled back into the canvas in an apparent delayed reaction from the uppercut.

TONY MUSTO

THE FIGHTER

During the busiest year of Joe Louis' title reign, promoter Mike Jacobs severely tested the creativity of his publicists. It was their job to validate Louis' title challengers. This was often difficult, especially when Louis signed to defend against Chicago's Musto. The 5'7½" Musto, it was said, was deceivingly skilled. Moreover, everyone was aware of how much trouble Louis had experienced with short fighters. Tony Galento, with whom Musto was invariably compared, had dropped the champion with a thunderous left hook, and Chile's Arturo Godoy, who shortened himself by fighting out of an exaggerated crouch, clearly confused him, at least in their first fight.



Louis barely used his sore right hand and still managed to kayo the 25-year-old Musto in nine rounds. However, the challenger lasted longer than most members of the Bum of the Month Club.

Dick Mastro wrote of Musto, "Behind a protective cordon of arms and elbows and a crouch, he advances continually until under his opponents' guard, and then begins beating a vicious bombardment with both hands. The style makes him practically impossible to hit solidly, and yet he is able to keep flailing away."

The 25-year-old Musto hailed from Blue Island, Illinois, a suburb of Chicago. He was nicknamed "The Blue Island Tank," and "The Chicago Baby Tank." But his record suggested something less formidable. Having turned pro in Texas, he won 18 of his first 19 bouts, including an upset decision over Jorge Brescia in 1938. But Musto finished 1940 by losing four straight, and in '41, he prepped for his shot at the title by winning only four of nine fights. He was 23-9-1 (6) and unrated at the time of the Louis fight. His only chance, it seemed, would come if Louis punched himself into exhaustion; only 2½ weeks earlier in Detroit, "The Brown Bomber" had defended the crown for the 15th time by stopping the monstrous Abe Simon in 13 rounds.

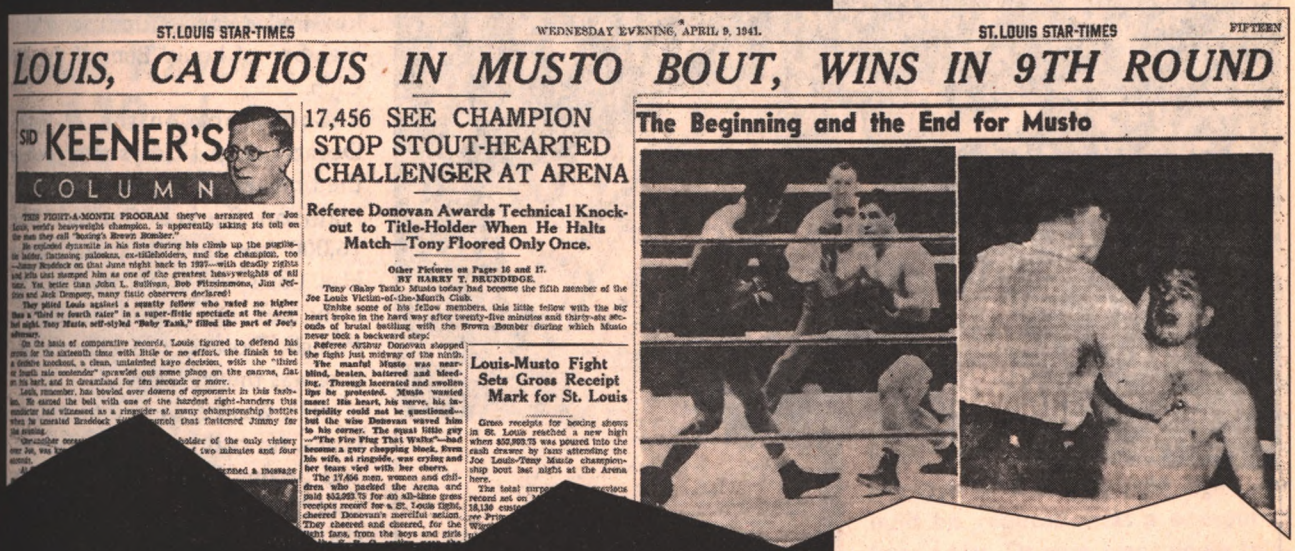
THE FIGHT

Credit Louis, and not Jacobs' publicists, for coming up with an equalizer. The champion fought with one hand, allowing Musto to appear more competitive than expected.

Climbing through the ropes with a sore right mitt, Louis, 203½, floored Musto, 199½, with two crosses and a hook in round three (the only knockdown of the fight), then limited his offense to jabs and left hooks and uppercuts. As awkward as advertised,

JOE LOUIS
KO 9
TONY MUSTO

April 8, 1941
St. Louis, Missouri



ST. LOUIS STAR-TIMES — WEDNESDAY EVENING, APRIL 9, 1941. — ST. LOUIS STAR-TIMES — FIFTEEN

LOUIS, CAUTIOUS IN MUSTO BOUT, WINS IN 9TH ROUND

SID KEENER'S COLUMN

THIS FIGHT-A-MONTH PROGRAM they've arranged for Joe Louis, world's heavyweight champion, is apparently taking its toll on the man they call "boxing's Brown Bomber."

He exploded dynamite in his fists during his climb up the pugilistic ladder, flattening palookas, ex-titleholders, and the champion, too—Jimmy Braddock on that June night back in 1937—with deadly rights and lefts that stamped him as one of the greatest heavyweights of all time. Yes, better than John L. Sullivan, Bob Fitzsimmons, Jim Jeffries and Jack Dempsey, many little observers declared!

They pitted Louis against a squatty fellow who rated no higher than a "third or fourth rater" in a super-fistic spectacle at the Arena last night. Tony Musto, self-styled "Baby Tank," filled the part of Joe's adversary.

On the basis of comparative records, Louis figured to defend his crown for the sixteenth time with little or no effort, the finish to be a definite knockout, a clean, unlainted kayo decision, with the "third or fourth rate contender" sprawled out some place on the canvas, flat on his back, and in dreamland for ten seconds or more.

Louis, remember, has bowled over dozens of opponents in this fashion. He earned the belt with one of the hardest right-handers this conductor had witnessed as a ringsider at many championship battles when he unseated Braddock [illegible] that flattened Jimmy for the evening.

"Remember [illegible] holder of the only victory over Joe, was [illegible] two minutes and four seconds.

[illegible] a message

17,456 SEE CHAMPION STOP STOUT-HEARTED CHALLENGER AT ARENA

Referee Donovan Awards Technical Knockout to Title-Holder When He Halts Match—Tony Floored Only Once.

Other Pictures on Pages 16 and 17.
BY HARRY T. BRUNDIDGE.

Tony (Baby Tank) Musto today had become the fifth member of the Joe Louis Victim-of-the-Month Club.

Unlike some of his fellow members, this little fellow with the big heart broke in the hard way after twenty-five minutes and thirty-six seconds of brutal battling with the Brown Bomber during which Musto never took a backward step!

Referee Arthur Donovan stopped the fight just midway of the ninth.

The manful Musto was near-blind, beaten, battered and bleeding. Through lacerated and swollen lips he protested. Musto wanted more! His heart, his nerve, his intrepidity could not be questioned—but the wise Donovan waved him to his corner. The squat little guy—"The Fire Plug That Walks"—had become a gory chopping block. Even his wife, at ringside, was crying and her tears vied with her cheers.

The 17,456 men, women and children who packed the Arena and paid $52,993.75 for an all-time gross receipts record for a St. Louis fight, cheered Donovan's merciful action. They cheered and cheered, for the fight fans, from the boys and girls [illegible]

Louis-Musto Fight Sets Gross Receipt Mark for St. Louis

Gross receipts for boxing shows in St. Louis reached a new high when $52,993.75 was poured into the cash drawer by fans attending the Joe Louis-Tony Musto championship bout last night at the Arena here.

The total surp[illegible] record set on [illegible] 18,130 cust[illegible] see Fri[illegible] Wi[illegible]

The Beginning and the End for Musto

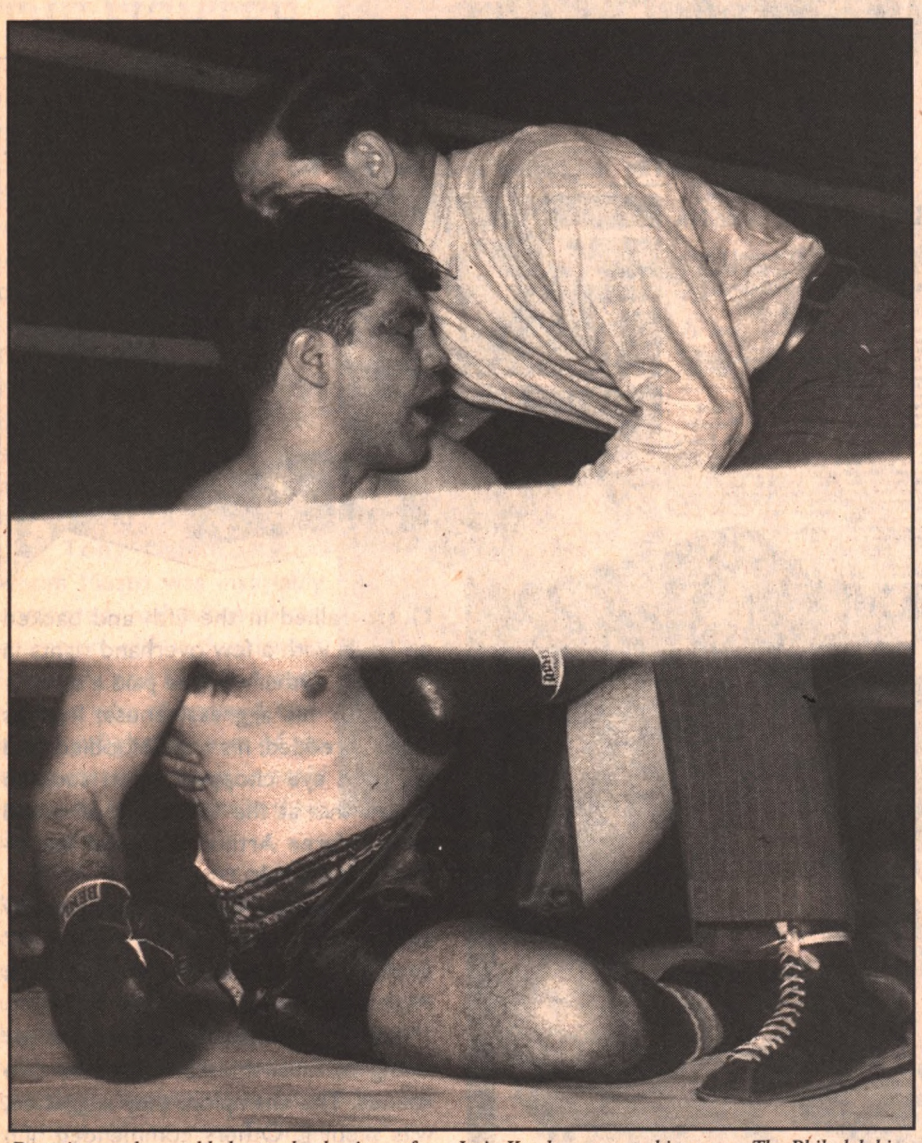
Musto, who stood only 5'7½", congratulates "The Brown Bomber," who scored his 16th successful defense—and his second in less than three weeks!

Musto rallied in the fifth and backed up Louis with a few overhand rights in the sixth. Otherwise, he paid a terrible price for his aggressiveness; his lips were shredded, his nose bloodied, and his right eye chopped up to such an extent that at the 1:36 mark of round nine, referee Arthur Donovan mercifully called a halt.

"What's the use of making a guy suffer just 'cause he's game?" explained Donovan. "It was obvious Musto didn't have a chance."

Some ringsiders criticized Louis for failing to finish Musto in one or two rounds. The champion, they suggested, was slipping. Others commended him for his patience. Then there was Robert L. Burnes of the *St. Louis Daily Glove-Democrat*, who seemed right on target when he wrote of Louis, "Coolness is something to be desired in a fighter, but coolness to the point of being bored is something else again."

GUS DORAZIO



Dorazio was thoroughly beaten by the time referee Irvin Kutcher came to his rescue. The Philadelphian gave Louis trouble for one round, then went down in a heap and asked why the fight was stopped.

THE FIGHTER

After *Rocky* became one of the biggest box office hits of the '70s, it was decided that Chuck Wepner, the clubfighter who challenged heavyweight champion Muhammad Ali in 1975, was the inspiration for Sylvester Stallone's title character. Seems Rocky Balboa had more in common with fellow Philadelphian Dorazio, a char member of Louis' Bum of the Mo Club.

Louis took on the 24-year-o Dorazio only 17 days after defend the title against Red Burman (KO 5) Madison Square Garden. Almo 16,000 fans turned up at Convent Hall. Louis was a 15-1 favorite, and t only person in the building wh thought Dorazio had a chance of wi ning was the challenger.

"He was convinced he could be Louis, he really was," the late train and boxing historian, Willie O'Ne told THE RING Managing Editor Ni Collins, who chronicled Dorazio headline-making life in *Boxi Babylon*. "He told everybody South Philly how he was going knock out Louis—and Gus could punch!"

Dorazio enjoyed a successful am teur career, winning titles in Phil delphia and New Jersey. As a pro, started well, but almost every time faced a top-notch heavyweight, he w defeated. His only major victory wa narrow points win over Bob Pastor 1938. Conversely, he had lost among others, Al Ettore, Billy Co Willie Reddish, Red Burman, Pa Perroni, and Arturo Godoy. At time of the Louis fight, he was 36-5 (6) and unrated.

"Gus' main asset was his reputa for always marching straight into teeth of his opponents' best punche wrote Collins in *Boxing Baby* "Anybody with half a brain kn Dorazio was doomed."

JOE LOUIS
KO 2
GUS DORAZIO

February 17, 1941
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

DAILY NEWS, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 1941

Louis Kayos Dorazio In 1.30 of 2d Round

By Jack Mahon

Philadelphia, Feb. 17.—"When they fall on their face—they don't get up." Professor Joseph Louis, specialist in temporary embalming, took exactly four and a half minutes to demonstrate the truth of this ancient prize-ring axiom to some 15,902 citizens packed in steaming Convention Hall here this evening. The Bomber, after being bullied around and held even by squatty Gus Dorazio in a wild first round, struck with the suddenness of Summer lightning early in the second, dumped the challenger face down near his corner after one minute and thirty seconds and thus completed the 14th defense of his world's heavyweight title.

Hair Raiser

Gus Dorazio didn't get knocked down once in the first round—but he was hit with Louis' stiff left which lifted his hair. This is the type of punch which set him up for the kill in the following round.

The "finisher" was the first good punch Louis hit the little Italian. It was a right cross which caught Gus on the left side of his chin.

Gus hit the deck like a sack of wheat and you didn't have to be a Yogi to see that Mr. D. was not going to arise. He lay on his right side, his chin buried in the resin.

At the count of 7, he made an attempt to raise himself on his right arm, but, as he got his face off the floor, the arm collapsed under him and he slumped back and accepted the full count.

WHAT HAPPENED?

It took Gus, who had never before been completely knocked out, about 30 seconds to realize it was all over. Dr. William Terry of the Boxing Commission staff jumped into the ring, inspected the challenger, and pronounced him O. K.

At that point, he was beginning to come out of his trance and was asking his manager, Joe Martino, "What happened?"

When advised it was all over but the auditing of the books, Gus asked, "Why did they stop it?"

Before leaving the ring, the Italian made a quick Cook's Tour of the ringside to offer his explanation of the debacle to scribes.

"I don't know what happened—I didn't really feel anything," was the gist of Gus' address.

It was a typical Louis finish. The champion, stalking slowly, let Dorazio bull him around the ring in the first round and actually had a tough time solving the smaller lad's style. Joe never looks good against crouchers and Gus fought like one of the charter members of the Hunchback of Notre Dame fraternity.

Gus went into a crouch at the opening bell and rushed the champion into the ropes several times in the first two minutes, much the same as Red Burman had done. Gus didn't land an effective punch till half-way through the round when he nailed Louis with a sweeping left hook to the eye.

JOE FINDS OPENING

Joe belted a couple of glancing rights off Gus' bobbing dome, but they didn't do any damage. Louis' best punch in this round was a left hook to the head which spun Gus into the ropes near his corner just before the bell. However, this blow [illegible] Dorazio as he was back[illegible] did not pack all the [illegible]

[illegible] saw both bo[illegible] [illegible]ute. Dora[illegible] only to [illegible]

it was time for another charge and another of those Western Union [illegible]ft hooks he was sending toward Bomber's chin. He started to [illegible]t, but, at that moment Do[illegible] [illegible]und the opening [illegible]

This ended any title dream that lived in the brain of the Italian hope.

Louis, scaling 203½ pounds, 1[illegible] more than the challenger, weighed more than for any previous title defense.

[illegible] the dressing room, Louis com[illegible] [illegible]ed the challenger: [illegible] was a darned goo[illegible] [illegible]t happened to ge[illegible] ([illegible] col. 5)

Finis

Dorazio, eyes glazed, is carted to his corner by handlers after being stiffened by Louis in second round. When he came to, didn't know the fight was over.

Philadelphia Short Short Story

ROUND ONE—Gus rushed Joe immediately and clinched near the ropes. [illegible]

I called this round even.

ROUND TWO—Joe blocked a wild left. [illegible]

The time was 1:30 of the second round.

Louis wins by kayo.

[illegible]

Terry Ultimatum To Danning

(Special to The News)

Miami, Feb. 17.—Manager Bill Terry today promised a diet of sulphur and brimstone for the Giants' two most important holdouts, Harry Danning and Joe Orengo. Bill considers he has treated both with kindness thus far, but warned they'll have to snap into line—or "I'm finished with both."

"I wired Danning today, suggesting that, if he came on from California, I felt sure I could work out a salary agreement that would be satisfactory," said Terry in his latest move to bring the holdout catcher to terms. "But if Harry refuses to heed my suggestion, the matter is finished as far as I'm concerned and I would not recommend raising him a dime."

MAY LOSE RAISE

Terry also announced a final ultimatum has been sent Joe Orengo, infielder purchased from St. Louis during the Winter. Although Joe isn't due until Thursday, when the second squad reports, Terry has been trying to settle his salary dispute and has offered Orengo an increase of $2,000 above what the Cardinals paid him last year.

"This is absolutely tops," thundered Terry, "and, what's more, I notified Orengo that if he isn't here Thursday the entire increase will be rescinded and he'll work for last year's pay—or maybe not at all."

JURGES WORKS OUT.

Other than the holdout headaches, everything is rolling smoothly in the Giant training quarters. Billy Jurges joined the perspiring squad of battery candidates who toiled for two and a half hours under the sun and, while he stood the workout well, Terry refused to wax enthusiastic.

"You can't tell anything in practice," said the manager, just a bit grimly. "Jurges will have to play in a number of games before we can be sure of [illegible]"

Today's [illegible] held [illegible]

THE POWER HOUSE by JIMMY POWERS

Philadelphia, Feb. 17.—Joe Louis should find it very easy making a living writing epitaphs when, and if, he retires from the ring. Joe can say the nicest things about the fellows he slaughters. Joe never knocks anyone. Some of his contemporaries do. They are often very clever about their knocking. For example, they will say . . . "I hurt my hand" . . . or . . . "I had a cold just before I went into the ring." This is really bad sportsmanship and it constitutes knocking your opponent. Joe is a credit to the public school system of Detroit, or the settlement house instructors, or whoever taught him to be fair.

Let's just run through our clippings, or our memories, and recall Joe's utterances of public record about his opponents.

After the second Bob Pastor fight in which Joe annihilated Pastor, Joe said: "Bob is really a tough boy. He hurt me in the eighth round. He's dead game."

After the Baer fight in which experts wrote that Maxie showed no moxie, everyone else said Baer quit. But Louis said: "I had to hit him with the hardest punch I ever landed to make him stop."

After the Galento fight, in which Joe might have been excused for pointing out his momentary carelessness, he simply said: "Did Tony hit me hard? Huh! He hit me hard enough to knock me down. That's hard enough, ain't it?"

After the Burman fight, in which poor Red was hopelessly outclassed, Joe said: "Red is the second guy who came after me trying to win my title. Galento also came close. They tried hard to win."

Comment: And so it goes. Never has the ring produced a finer sportsman, and a finer gentleman, than Joseph Barrow Louis. P. S. He's also pretty good as a fighter.

Each year the drama critics pick the ten best plays and the movie critics pick the ten best movies. No one has riffled through the season to pick the ten best baseball highlights and so, before the hot stove league comes to a close, here is our contribution of fuel. We present the highlights, dramatic and comic, of the Dodgers for the past year. In fact we'll make it twelve instead of ten and call it, "The 1940 Dodger Dozen." How many of these games were you lucky enough to see?

(1) That nine-game season-opening rampage—April 16-30.
(2) Tex Carleton's no-hitter—April 30.
(3) Pee Wee Reese's clutch grand-slam homer—July 3.
(4) Vito Tamulis' eight perfect innings—July 4.
(5) Medwick to Reese to Phelps, great game-saving play—July 29.
(6) Reese and Wasdell simultaneously occupy second base—Aug. 1.
(7) Dixie Walker's pair of 5-for-5 days—Sept. 1, Sept. 9.
(8) Babe Phelps' three great plays at first base—Sept. 11.
(9) Casey's two wins in one day—Sept. 12.
(10) Carlton's game-saving unassisted double play—Sept. 22.
(11) Freddy Fitzsimmons' great season—won 16.
(12) Giants defeated for a new record—16 times.

Winter Sports Department: How fast do you think ski-jumpers travel? R. G. Lynch took a stopwatch and timed the 300-foot chute at Iron Mountain, Mich. It took six seconds to slide down the chute. Alf Engen, when he broke the American record with a 267-foot leap, took 1.8 seconds for the last half of his slide and was in the air for 4 seconds. This gave him a take-off speed of 57 miles per hour.

One minute interview with Joe Falcaro:

"So many bowlers want to know why they don't get strikes whenever they hit the 1-3 pocket squarely. They also ask why certain pins stand up on what they believe to be good hits. The answer is that what often appears to be a perfect strike hit is not perfect at all. I have made some experiments and here are the results. Out of 50 pocket hits I got 28 strikes, 12 "ten pin touches," 5 "number 7 touches" and 5 "number 4 touches." Just remember "strike splits" are the results of light pocket hits. An "8-pin hit," when that pin remains standing on what looks like a perfect hit, is the result of the ball cutting into the pocket too light. Then the No. 5 pin slides in "front" of the "No. 8 pin."

THE FIGHT

Fighting out of a pronounced crouch, Dorazio troubled "The Brown Bomber" for exactly one round. Louis missed often over the first three minutes, but Dorazio offered no counterattack. And his poor kayo percentage was well-deserved; when he did punch, he lacked both the technique and power to threaten the champion.

Over the first minute of round two, Dorazio, 193½, connected a couple of times. But when he launched a wide hook, Louis, 203½, stepped in with the type of short, straight right that built his reputation as a one-punch kayo artist. Dorazio went down face-first, struggled to rise at referee Irvin Kutcher's toll of seven, and was counted out at the 1:30 mark.

"Why did they stop it?" he asked his handlers, unaware that Louis had punched him to the floor.

Wrote James P. Dawson in *The New York Times*, " … [Louis] did not need this manifestation of superiority as testimony to his greatness."

A trio of Pennsylvania state senators, including a former fighter, took a different view, publicly stating they thought Dorazio had taken a dive. In reality, he had simply been overmatched. *Badly* overmatched.

After being humbled by Louis, Dorazio became a .500 fighter. He also became a convicted felon, being jailed for draft evasion in 1945 and second-degree murder in 1949. Okay, so maybe he wasn't that much like Rocky after all.

TOM McNEELEY

Promoter Tom Bolan shows a seemingly apathetic Patterson the dotted line as the challenger, 23-0 but virtually untested against world-class opposition, looks on.

THE FIGHTER

McNeeley wasn't a good fighter, but he was a helluva story, and as such, was simultaneously embraced and mocked by the media. For starters, the native of Arlington, Massachusetts, had dropped out of Michigan State, where he played line for the varsity football team, after the school disbanded its boxing program. In crudely registering 23 consecutive professional wins (with 18 kayos) against no-name opposition, the 6'2", 200-pound heavyweight occasionally forgot the rules of the ring. As a result, he was sent by his manager to a psychiatrist so he could better channel his emotions.

That manager, former amateur heavyweight Peter Fuller, was a story in himself. The Harvard-educated Fuller was a millionaire and the blue-blooded son of the former governor. Still, for all of Fuller's status and money, he was unable to land the fight in Boston, and the second defense of Patterson's second reign became the first heavyweight title fight ever held in Canada.

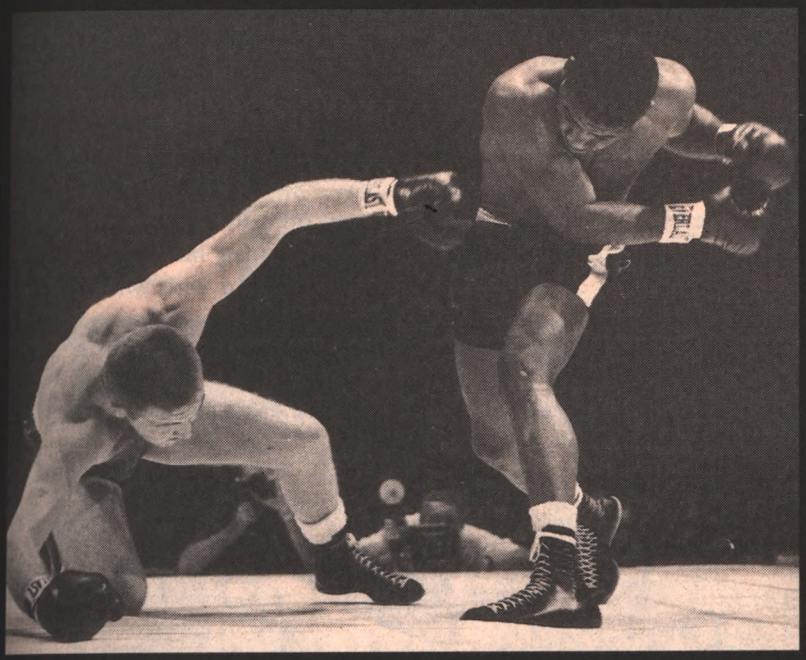
The matchup was dripping with irony: After McNeeley defeated ye another faded journeyman in Kitone Lave, Fuller matched him against unknown Frenchman Robert Du quesne. However, the Massachusetts Boxing Commission vetoed the bout as a mismatch. Fuller protested, claiming his fighter was a relative novice. A short time later, he signed to fight the world heavyweight champion.

Wrote *The New York Times*' Arthur Dailey, "[McNeeley] has a chance, a

FLOYD PATTERSON KO 4 TOM McNEELEY

December 4, 1961

Toronto, Canada



No one is sure just how many times Patterson floored McNeeley during their four rounds of combat. Depending on your source, it was either eight, nine, or 11 times.

FINAL

DAILY NEWS

NEW YORK'S PICTURE NEWSPAPER ®

72 New York 17, N.Y., Tuesday, December 5, 1961 5 CENTS

FLOYD BY KO IN 4

Liston Fells Westphal in 1

Stories on Page 64

right. So has Outer Mongolia of becoming the first nation to send a man to the moon."

"In many respects," wrote Gene Ward of the New York *Daily News*, "McNeeley is the worst challenger Patterson has ever faced, and some of them have been sorry specimens."

THE FIGHT

Patterson's title fights were to knockdowns what Sam Peckinpaugh's films were to shootouts. In fact, the 24-year-old McNeeley crashed so often, no one seemed able to keep count; in various publications, the total number of knockdowns was reported as eight, nine, and 11.

"Each time he got up," said Patterson, "he got up fighting harder."

Unofficially, at least, the champion scored one knockdown in the first round, four in the third, and three more in the fourth. McNeeley, 197, downed Patterson, 188½, with a pair of hooks in the fourth, but the titlist quickly sprung to his feet, and referee Jersey Joe Walcott didn't bother to issue a mandatory count. Seconds later, McNeeley was floored for the final time, with Walcott counting him out at the 2:51 mark.

Before the fight, McNeeley said if he lost, he might suit up for the Boston Patriots of the American Football League. Instead, he languished as a .500 fighter, making headlines with his foul-filled brawls with the likes of Don McAteer, Robert Cleroux, and Duke Sabedong.

"Until the day I die," he said, "I can say I fought for the heavyweight championship of the world. How many guys can say that? I did my best. I've got nothing to be ashamed of."

SCOTT FRANK

THE FIGHTER

What do you make of a challenger of whom his own trainer (in this case Lou Duva) says, "One day in the gym he'll look like a top contender, and the next day he's not even a four-round fighter"?

Frank surely didn't belong in the ring with one of the greatest heavyweight champions in history, but he deserved credit for securing the bout. One day he telephoned Holmes at the champion's office in Easton, Pennsylvania, and said, "Larry, I want to fight you. I think I can beat you." After the fight was signed, Holmes said, "That's the first time someone called me and asked to get beat up."

Like the undefeated (44-0) Holmes, the 25-year-old Frank climbed through the ropes as a champion. But where Holmes had made 15 defenses of the WBC title, Frank was only the king of New Jersey. He was unbeaten (20-0-1 with 14 kayos), but in his lone bout against a contender, he struggled to a draw vs. Renaldo Snipes. Did victories over the likes of fossils Chuck Wepner and Ron Stander qualify Frank for a title shot?

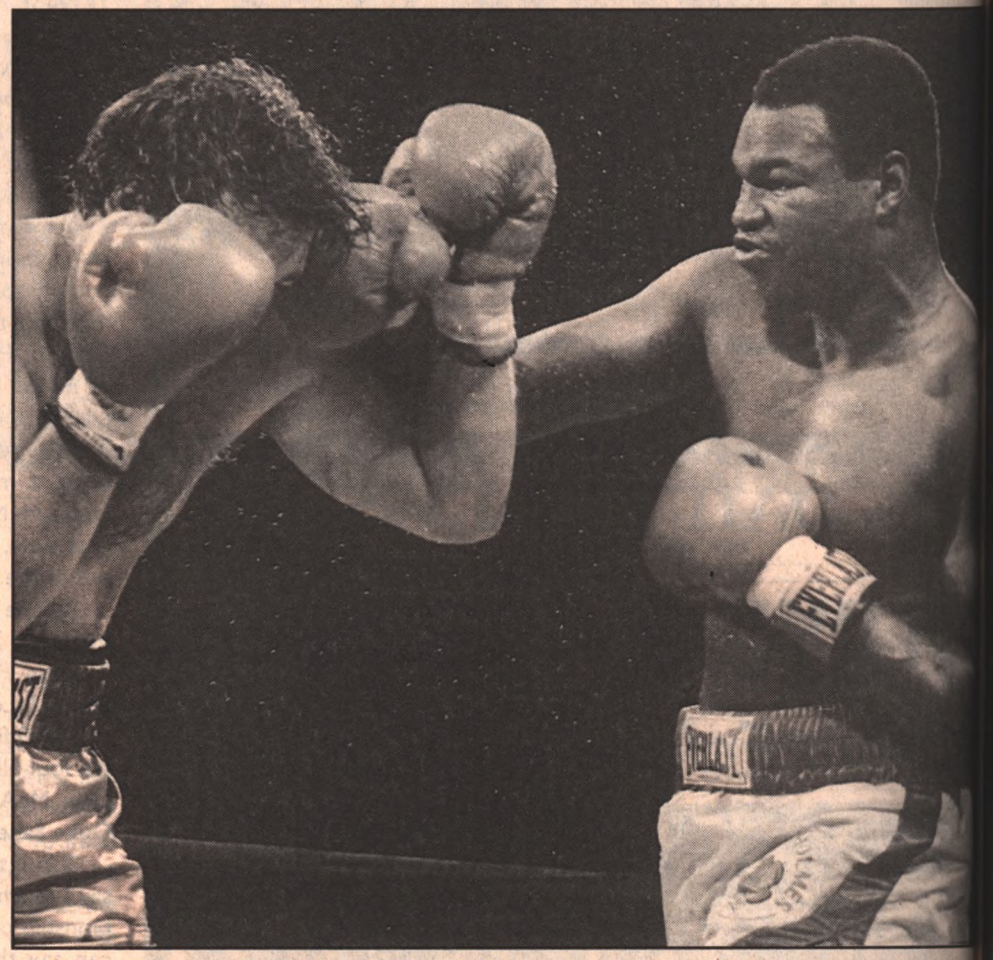
"Scott Frank fighting Larry Holmes?" wrote Eric Compton in the New York *Daily News*. "Scott Frank would've had trouble with *Oliver Wendell* Holmes."

Added Joe Bruno of the *New York Tribune*, "There are fighters who boxed in the sub-novice Golden Gloves last year who would give Scott Frank big knots over both eyes."

And those were the milder reactions to the mismatch of the year. Perhaps the harshest critic was THE RING. The magazine boycotted the fight.

THE FIGHT

More than 5,000 fans came to Harrah's for a title fight that was televised in prime time by NBC. They can't say they hadn't been warned. Holmes, scaling 223, or 10 pounds more than he weighed for his previous defense vs. Tim Witherspoon, methodically picked apart the challenger, landing his dominant jab at will and followed with whatever power-



Holmes did as he pleased against the sadly overmatched Frank, who got the fight by calling the champion at home. Despite the quality of the opposition, the title fight was nationally televised in prime time.

LARRY HOLMES KO 5 SCOTT FRANK

September 10, 1983
Atlantic City, New Jersey

Holmes, who would be remembered as one of the greatest heavyweight champions of all-time, chats with the forgettable Frank at the post-fight press conference.

Frankly speaking, it was no fight

Holmes scores 5th-round TKO to retain heavyweight title

By Ed Schuyler Jr.
Associated Press

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. — Larry Holmes last night successfully defended his World Boxing Council title for the 16th time and claimed: "I'm getting better all the time. I'm improving with age."

But a battered Scott Frank certainly was no accurate barometer of the 33-year-old champion's skills.

Until the fight ended at 1:28 of the fifth round it was a game of pitch and catch, and the unbeaten champion was the pitcher, spearing Frank with punishing left jabs, left hooks and rights to the head and body.

It seemed hard for Holmes to miss.

Frank's left eye was swelling, he had had his nose bloodied and blood was drawn from his right ear when Holmes landed a smashing right uppercut to the challenger's eye in the fifth round.

Frank complained to referee Tony Perez that he had been thumbed, then dropped to the canvas. Perez ruled it a knockdown and counted to four before Frank got up, with the right eye closed. Then, shortly after Holmes resumed target practice, Perez mercifully stopped the fight.

"I was thumbed in the eye and it was a good thumb," said Frank in the ring after the fight. "The referee should have called it. But that's the way boxing is."

"Fighters always find excuses when a good punch lands in the eye," said Holmes. "But that's boxing. Some guys can take it better than others and some can't. "If I [illegible]ed my man, I'm sorry [illegible]mean it."

[illegible]tfight news con- [illegible] to press his [illegible]he shrugged. [illegible]d take in

Scott Frank, eyes swollen, takes eight-count from referee Tony Perez in the fifth round of last night's heavyweight bout against Larry Holmes.

"It's hard for me to hit a guy who made me so much money."

Well, Frank barely laid a glove in the 33-year-old champion who in turn made a punching bag out of him.

Holmes, scoring with a punishing left jabs and a crisp right hand, drew blood from Frank's nose in the third round. Then in the fourth, he bloodied the nose again and drew blod from the challenger's right ear.

In the fifth round, Holmes who at 223 pounds was the heaviest for any title fight, really began toeing off. He battered Frank with jabs and right [illegible]ands and then with Frank [illegible] along the ropes, Holmes [illegible] a right uppercut that hit [illegible]n the right eye.

Frank [illegible]ver and complained [illegible]t he had been thumbed [illegible]pped to the floor. [illegible] count and Frank [illegible]en Holmes method [illegible]is assault and [illegible]pped the [illegible]

show if that were true, but he got a pat on the back from the champion. "I want to thank Scott Frank for giving me a chance to make another dollar," said Holmes.

Holmes got $1.5 million for his performance before a soldout crowd of 5,187, who paid $580,000 at a tent erected adjacent to Harrah's Marina.

Holmes now is 44-0 with 31 knockouts and is 17-0 in title bouts. He became champion in 1978 on a split decision over Ken Norton at Las Vegas.

Frank of Oakland, N.J., who weighed 211¾ is now 20-1-1 with 14 knockouts. He is the heavyweight champion of New Jersey.

The fight, televised live by NBC, was the first in this state since Jack Dempsey knocked George Carpentier before a crowd of more than [illegible] at a wooden stadium build[illegible]res at Jersey City on July 2, [illegible]mpsey-Carpentier fi[illegible]t is [illegible]nd. The Holm[illegible]nk

punches he chose. Frank, 211¼, landed only one shot of note, a wide, looping right in round two. By the third, he was bleeding from the nose, and soon after that, his left eye swelled up.

One minute into the fifth, Holmes connected with his most dangerous punch, a right uppercut, and Frank slumped to the canvas while indicating to referee Tony Perez that he had been thumbed. Upon rising, he was greeted by a flurry of punches, and Perez intervened at the 1:28 mark.

"Frank was looking for an excuse to get out of there, and he got it," said Holmes.

Maybe he was looking for an excuse to get out of boxing, too: Frank sat out all of 1984, '85, and '86, fought once in '87, and then hung up the gloves for good.

DAVE ZYGLEWICZ

WANTED
YOUNG BOXERS

Recently completed world's largest and best equipped boxing gymnasium at Yoakum, Texas. Also, kitchen, dining room, and dormitory facilities where I can care for 50 men. If you are around 6', weigh 200 pounds, strong and healthy, start immediately by bus—walking—hitchhiking—or working your way on a boat, regardless of where you are.

It's all FREE with the best boxing instructors in the world. You can help me on my ranch for your food, clothing, lodging, and spending money. The only requirement is that you must be a good, honest boy.

No drinkers, smokers, ex-convicts, or lazy men need apply. Ages from 17 to 23 regardless of creed or nationality. You will be taught. No experience is necessary.

You will be instructed several months before you are allowed to fight another green fighter like yourself. I have the finest connections with the leading boxing promoters throughout the country. I can guarantee you that if you have the desire and determination to go through with this program and have some ability, I will make you a fine, polished fighter who can get in the ring with anyone and take care of himself.

HUGH S. BENBOW
BOX 472, YOAKUM, TEXAS 77995

Only in boxing: Zyglewicz answered this ad in THE RING, *compiled a shiny record of 28-1 (14), and secured a try at champion Joe Frazier.*

THE FIGHTER

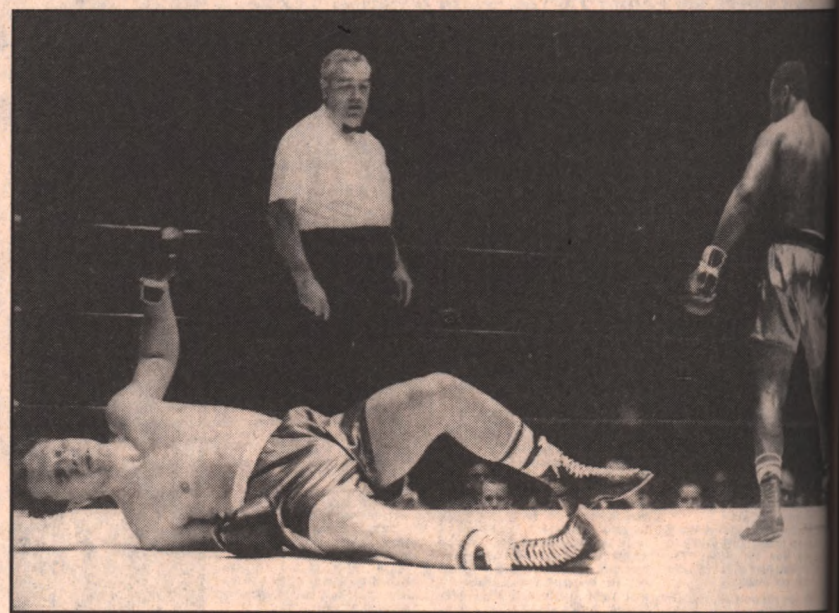
At first glance, "Animal" Zyglewicz seemed a strange choice to succeed Cleveland Williams as the most popular fighter in Houston. For starters, Ziggy hailed from Watervliet, New York, and not Texas. Moreover, unlike "The Big Cat," he didn't seem heavyweight championship material. Only 5'10" and 190 pounds, Ziggy boxed a bit in the Navy and came to Houston only after answering a classified ad in THE RING. Manager Hugh Benbow and partner Perry Payne had challenged young, eager heavyweights to come to their gym and develop into world champions. Ziggy arrived in Houston with $10 in his pocket, which had been supplied by Benbow. He not only came to the gym, but for a short time lived in it.

In compiling a mark of 28-1 (14), the irrepressible Ziggy was compared to a young Rocky Marciano. But there were no Roland LaStarzas or Joe Louises on his record, only Levi Fortes and Willi Besmanoffs. The 24-year-old Frazier, 22-0 (19), who was recognized by New York State and a handful of other jurisdictions as champion, needed a tuneup before his already-signed defense against Jerry Quarry in Jun Ziggy, who could be counted on to s tickets in Houston, was the perfe opponent: He was a colorful, alb unranked, contender with a glos record and absolutely no weapo with which to do battle.

Wrote Gene Ward of the Ne York *Daily News*, "The bums-of-th month Joe Louis fought were cham compared to Zyglewicz."

THE FIGHT

More than 12,000 Ziggy followe came to the Sam Houston Colise for Frazier's third defense. Fa expected a violent explosion, but n one could have guessed the fig would last only 96 seconds.

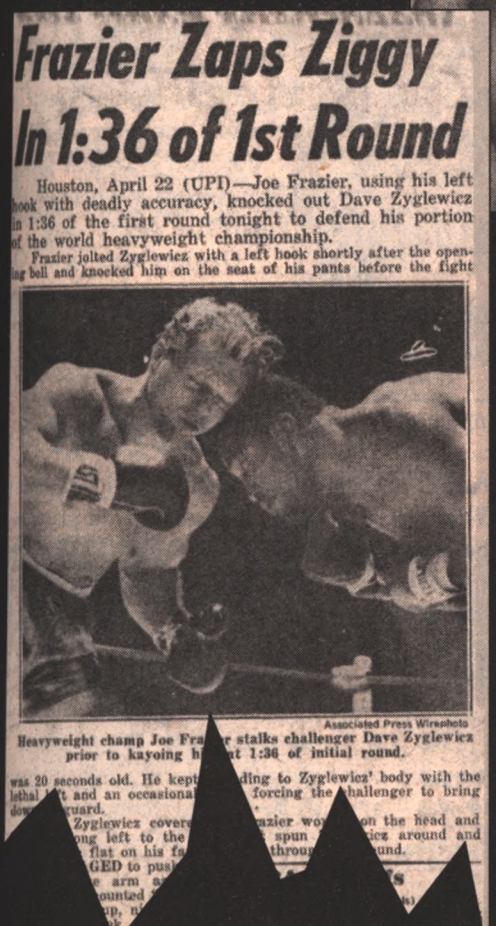


Ziggy quickly discovered just how devastating Frazier's left hook could be. The challenger w floored only 30 seconds after the opening bell, and kayoed after 96 seconds.

JOE FRAZIER KO 1 DAVE ZYGLEWICZ

April 22, 1969
Houston, Texas

Ziggy is comforted by his father after his unsuccessful attempt at dethroning Frazier. For the clubfighter from New York State, tougher fights lay ahead.



Frazier Zaps Ziggy In 1:36 of 1st Round

Houston, April 22 (UPI)—Joe Frazier, using his left hook with deadly accuracy, knocked out Dave Zyglewicz in 1:36 of the first round tonight to defend his portion of the world heavyweight championship.

Frazier jolted Zyglewicz with a left hook shortly after the opening bell and knocked him on the seat of his pants before the fight was 20 seconds old. He kept ...ding to Zyglewicz' body with the lethal left and an occasional ... forcing the challenger to bring down his guard.

Associated Press Wirephoto

Heavyweight champ Joe Fra...r stalks challenger Dave Zyglewicz prior to kayoing h...t 1:36 of initial round.

Zyglewicz covere... Frazier wo...on the head and long left to the ... spun ...icz around and flat on his fa... throu...und. GED to pus...

...e arm a... ...ounted ...

Frazier, 204½, landed his first telling hook 30 seconds after the opening—and only—bell. The 25-year-old Ziggy, 190½, answered with a right, and all guns were quickly opened. What Ziggy quickly discovered was that a pea-shooter can't match the damage done by a rifle.

After being doubled over by a body blow, Ziggy suffered the first knockdown of his career when Frazier connected with one of his patented hooks. The second time he was floored, again by a hook, he was unable to beat the count of referee Jimmy Webb, who counted him out at the 1:36 mark.

"I don't remember nothing," an incredulous Ziggy said afterward. "Did he really count me out?"

"He hit me a few bodyshots and he hit me with with a right on top of my head," said Frazier. "So I figured I'd better get to work. 'Joe,' I said to myself, 'you must be asleep. Wake up.' Then I hit him and knocked him out."

For Ziggy, a more significant fight lay ahead. In 1971, he was cleaning a chemical smokestack when the chutes accidentally opened. A co-worker was killed, and Ziggy suffered chemical burns over his skin and throughout his respiratory system. Virtually living in a bubble for 10 months, he was fortunate to survive. Incredibly, he fought again, climbing through the ropes once each in 1972, '75, and '81. He finished his career with a record of 31-4-1, and the satisfaction of knowing they'll never forget him in Houston.

TERRY DANIELS

This might have been the only time Daniels and Frazier were on level ground. As soon as the fight began, the challenger's limitations were mercilessly exposed, and Frazier cruised to his 24th kayo in 28 fights.

THE FIGHTER

At least in boxing terms, Daniels wasn't like the other guys. Fighters are supposed to be hungry, but the handsome 25-year-old was the son of a millionaire businessman. Moreover, he was nine credits short of a degree in government at Southern Methodist University. So what was he doing signing to fight for the heavyweight title?

After promoters convinced world champion Frazier that a prime-time televised defense on the night before the Super Bowl would make money for all concerned, there was one minor detail to resolve: Someone had to come up with a challenger. Having defeated Muhammad Ali in his most recent defense, "Smokin' Joe," 27-0 (23), was excused for accepting a gimme. Asked to explain why he was chosen, the unrated Daniels said, "All the other contenders have been around a long while. Maybe the public is tired of them."

The public certainly didn't know much about Daniels. Fighting mostly in Dallas and Houston, the one-time college football player turned pro in 1969 and had compiled a respectable record of 28-4-1 (24). But in his lone bout against a contender, he had been outpointed by Floyd Patterson, and in August 1971, he had been stopped in four rounds by Jack O'Halloran.

Despite his lack of credentials, Daniels was confident. "Sooner or later," he said, "Joe Frazier is going to run into a hard punch. It's inevitable."

Daniels was right. Only trouble was, that punch, to be delivered by George Foreman, was still 12 months away.

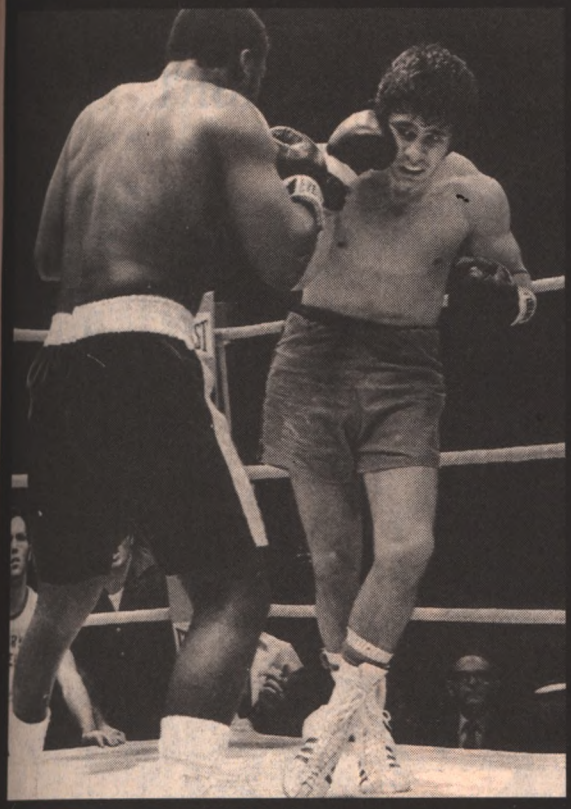
THE FIGHT

"Ten seconds after I entered the ring," said Daniels, "game plans went out the window. He was all over me!"

The first heavyweight title fight in New Orleans since Corbett-Sullivan in 1890 was hardly worth the wait. Scaling a surprisingly high 215¼, Frazier unleashed his feared hook early and often. Daniels, 195, crashed for the first time seconds before the bell ending the opening round. He some-

JOE FRAZIER
KO 4
TERRY DANIELS

January 15, 1972
New Orleans, Louisiana



Frazier's lethal left hooks left Daniels stepping like a drunken prima ballerina. There were four knockdowns in all, with "Smokin' Joe" scoring a TKO in round four.

how managed to survive the second, but suffered two knockdowns in the third, and fell face-first in the fourth. Upon rising, he was battered along the ropes, and referee Herman Dutreix finally called a halt at the 1:45 mark.

"They needed a math major for a referee, he had to count so much," said Daniels, who had lost his biggest fight but not his sense of humor.

Daniels' wife of 2½ years, Karen, endured the entire 10 minutes 45 seconds of brutality. "I usually don't watch the fights," she told *Newsday's* Joe Gergen, "but tonight I was watching between my hands. I'm relieved it's over but I believe he'll take it up again. After fighting Joe Frazier, I'm sure he can beat people in the top 10."

Not that it made Daniels feel any better, but the next afternoon at Tulane Stadium, the Super Bowl was a blowout, too, with the Dallas Cowboys whipping the Miami Dolphins, 24-3. Daniels went on to get his college degree, but he also kept fighting, going an unflattering 6-18 in his next two dozen bouts.

Automobiles, Boats
Dogs, Cats and Other Pets
Merchandise Offerings
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Transportation News
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The New York Times
SPORTS

Section 5
Sunday, January 16, 1972

FRAZIER KNOCKS OUT DANIELS IN 4TH, RETAINS TITLE; COWBOYS FIVE-POINT FAVORITES OVER DOLPHINS TODAY

WORTHY MATCHUP

65 Million Expected to See It—Dallas Has Won Nine Straight

By WILLIAM N. WALLACE

NEW ORLEANS, Jan. 15—The Dallas Cowboys are favorites by 5 points in wagering circles, to win the sixth Super Bowl game tomorrow from the Miami Dolphins before 81,822 people in Tulane Stadium.

There will be 600 times as many people watching the game on television—or an estimated audience of 65 million. The kickoff will be at 2:35 P.M., New York time, over Channel 2 in New York City with Ray Scott and Pat Summerall the broadcasters.

The Cowboy rule of the slight favorite—less than a touchdown — necessarily forms the nucleus and the anticipation that [illegible]

The No. 1 Sport? It's Now Football

At a time when television experts are predicting that some 65 million United States viewers will watch today's Super Bowl game, the latest Gallup Poll revealed yesterday that football had now became America's No. 1 spectator sport.

Baseball, long considered the major spectator sport, has fallen behind football as the game Americans are most likely to mention when asked which sport they enjoy watching.

The results of the poll show 36 per cent of American adults naming football as their favorite sport to watch and 21 per cent naming baseball. In a Gallup Poll sports survey reported in January, 1961, the figures were 24 per

Continued on Page 2, Column 7

FOUR KNOCKDOWNS

Fight Is Stopped With Challenger Draped Over Ring Ropes

By DAVE ANDERSON

NEW ORLEANS, Jan. 15—In a fight that was never in doubt from the moment the contracts were signed, Joe Frazier retained his world heavyweight championship tonight with a fourth-round knockout of Terry Daniels.

The fight was stopped at 1 minute 45 seconds of the fourth round after the courageous challenger had been knocked down for the fourth time and was draped over the ring ropes.

Daniels, in a corner hooded robe and trunks, was the first into the ring, but he didn't attract much of a response from the crowd estimated at 7,000, producing a $200,000 live gate. Nor did the spectators arrive enthusiastically to Frazier's appearance in a purple-and-white robe with purple trunks.

The referee [illegible]

MILLER, WITH 210 [illegible]

LAST-MINUTE GOAL [illegible] RANGERS, 4-3

JACK ROPER

THE FIGHTER

If Mike Tyson patterned his victory poses after old-timers like Battling Nelson, you think George Foreman stole his ring rap from West Coast veteran Roper, who was a rocking chair-aged 36 when he became Louis' sixth title defense victim?

"I've got a purpose to fight for," Roper said before the bout. "I owe it to the men of America to prove that 36 isn't an advance post of age. Just think what it will mean to men over 36 if I should beat Joe Louis. Defeated men who have resigned themselves to old age will pick up their shoulders and say if I can, they can also still make something out of life. It may start a new cycle."

A natural lefthander, Roper became a converted southpaw after suffering a kayo in his pro debut. In fact, his right hand was acknowledged as all but useless. The Louisiana native was best defined by his conquerors: He had lost twice to an aged George Godfrey, suffered a one-round, one-punch kayo vs. Jimmy Braddock, and mixed with another well-known heavyweight as well:

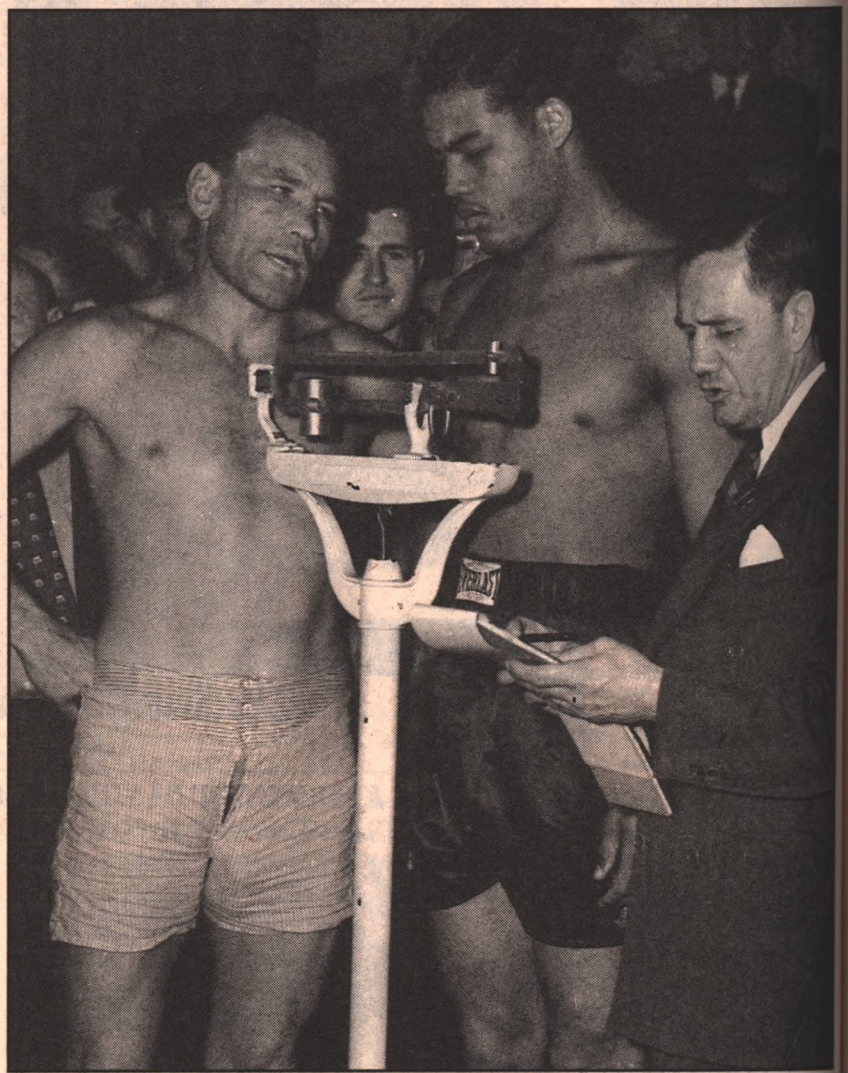
"In the fall of 1930," wrote Lester Bromberg, "Roper stooged for Jack Dempsey on an exhibition tour and in Kansas City was dropped twice and was badly used up. What a challenger!"

An unofficial 26-22-5, Roper ostensibly qualified for his title shot by kayoing Patsy Perroni in 1938 and Bob Nestell in '39. In reality, promoters believed he could still sell a few tickets, especially since there hadn't been a heavyweight title fight in California since Jack Johnson-Stanley Ketchel in 1909.

"The best that can be said for Roper," wrote New York columnist Dan Parker, "is that if he is game, he has a chance—about the same chance, perhaps, as Goebbels has of being elected Mayor of Delancey Street."

THE FIGHT

Before the bout, held before 21,125

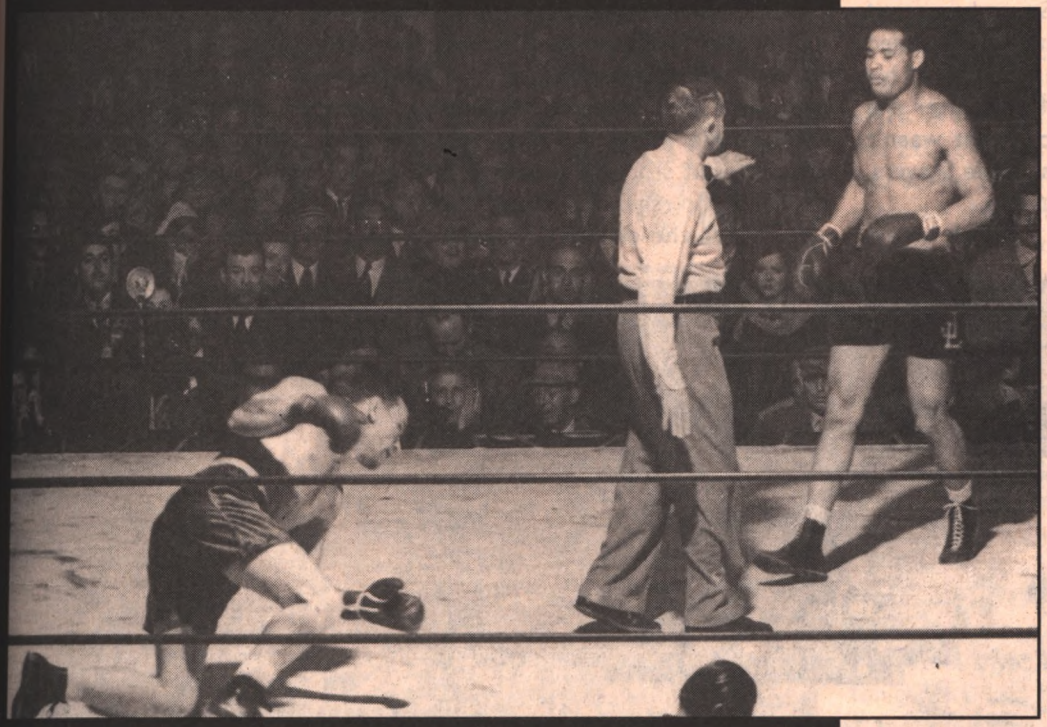


The tattooed Roper seems intimidating—until you realize his fly is open. The Los Angeles left hooker was a battle-scarred 36 when he secured his lone title shot.

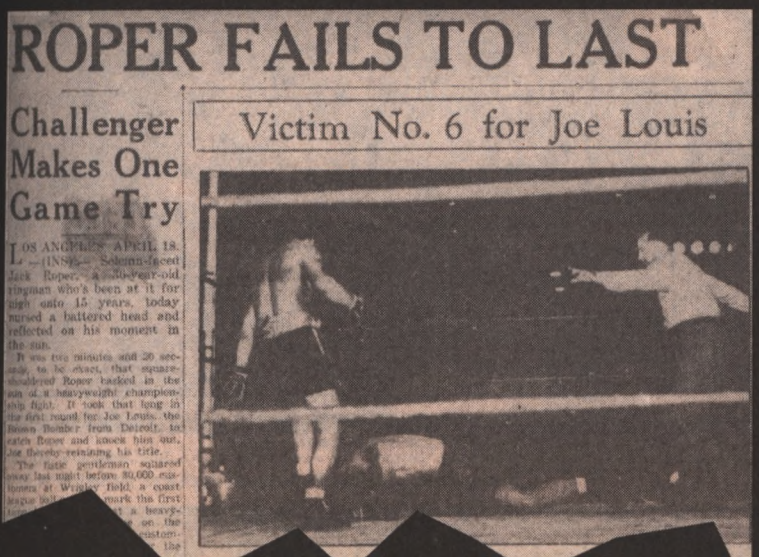
JOE LOUIS KO 1 JACK ROPER

April 17, 1939

Los Angeles, California



Roper lasted less than one round, but managed to threaten Louis with a hook. Unlike most of Louis' title fight opponents, he was willing to brawl.



ROPER FAILS TO LAST

Challenger Makes One Game Try

Victim No. 6 for Joe Louis

LOS ANGELES, APRIL 18. —(INS)— Solemn-faced Jack Roper, a 30-year-old ringman who's been at it for nigh onto 15 years, today nursed a battered head and reflected on his moment in the sun.

It was two minutes and 20 seconds, to be exact, that square-shouldered Roper backed in the sun of a heavyweight championship fight. It took that long in the first round for Joe Louis, the Brown Bomber from Detroit, to catch Roper and knock him out, Joe thereby retaining his title.

The little gentleman squared away last night before 80,000 customers at Wrigley field, a coast league ball [illegible] mark the first [illegible] a heavy- [illegible] on the [illegible] custom- [illegible] the

fans at Wrigley Field, Roper's wife said that if it were to be a bitter battle, "I'll wind up in the psychopathic ward." The battle wasn't bitter, but given its brevity, for Nancy Roper it might have been the equivalent of shock therapy.

Scheduled for 10 rounds (California law prohibited anything more), the fight was electric while it lasted. After about a minute-long feeling-out process, Roper, 204¾, launched his big weapon, a left hook. Louis, 201¼, wobbled a bit, allowing the challenger to fire two more hooks. Sensing danger, Louis covered up, then exploded with a savage two-handed attack. Driven to his own corner, Roper doubled over when struck by a right to the stomach. Louis followed with four more rights, and the challenger fell against the ropes and to the canvas. He only mildly threatened to beat referee George Blake's count, with the finish coming at the 2:20 mark.

Wrote Eddie Borden in THE RING, "... [the crowd] was satisfied that in Jack Roper, the old man of the ring, they had seen a fighter who tossed all fear aside, went out to win with a Sunday punch, took a gamble on a first-round fusillade, and met his doom."

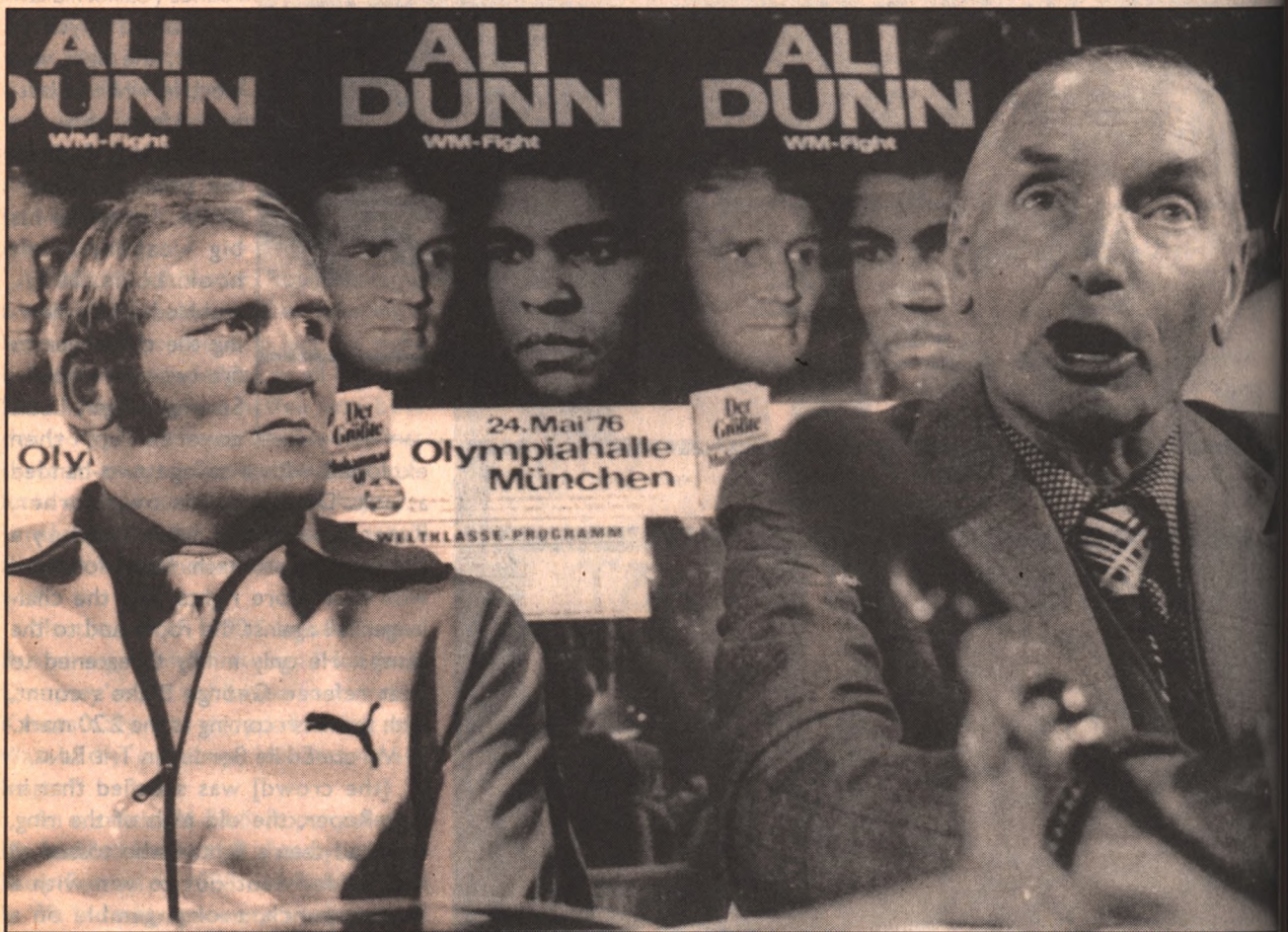
RICHARD DUNN

THE FIGHTER

In April 1976, heavyweight champion Ali made one of the ugliest defenses in division history, outpointing defensive specialist Jimmy Young over 15 hideous rounds. So embarrassed was "The Greatest" that he scheduled another defense, the seventh of his second reign, only 24 days after the Young fiasco. His opponent wasn't quite as threatening as Earnie Shavers, Ken Norton, or even Young.

There hadn't been a British heavyweight champion since Bob Fitzsimmons in 1899, and Dunn, a native of Halifax, England, didn't seem likely to break the jinx. Only the second southpaw to challenge for the title (Karl Mildenberger, who faced Ali in 1966, was the other), Dunn was the reigning British-Commonwealth and European champion. That was the good news. The bad: He was 33-9 (15), and had suffered eight stoppage losses. In fact, in 1974, Dunn registered three consecutive inside-the-distance defeats, to Ngozika Ekwellum, Jose Urtain, and the featherfisted Young.

Dunn was described by the Associated Press as a "nice Englishman who looks a bit like Joe Palooka." His manager, George Biddles, boasted, "[Dunn's] body is so tough, you could hit him with a sledgehammer and he wouldn't feel it." But what about his chin? New York *Daily News* columnist Dick Young addressed that issue: "Ali's opponent is ambidextrous. This means he can fall down on either side."



Before the bout, Dunn allowed manager George Biddles to do the talking. Given his history of stoppage losses, the fight posters should have identified the challenger as Richard Done. The 9-1 underdog did not bring a sturdy chin into his fights, and Ali put him down five times.

MUHAMMAD ALI KO 5 RICHARD DUNN

May 24, 1976
Munich, Germany

BIG FIGHT SPECIAL

Evening Standard

MIDDAY

London: Tuesday May 25 1976

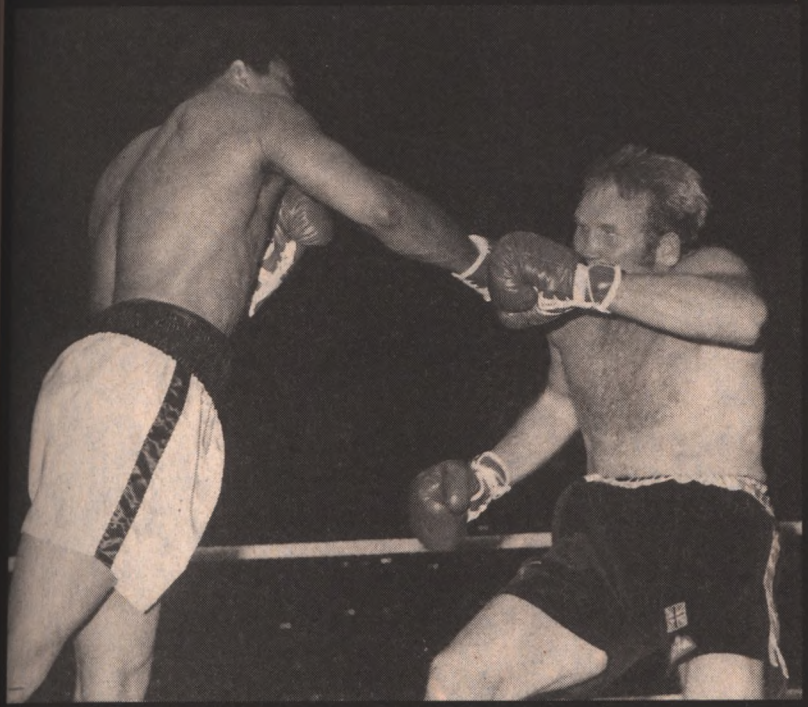
He's worth another title fight, says Ali

DEFIANT DUNN GOES IN FIVE

From Barry Newcombe

MUNICH, Tuesday.

MUHAMMAD ALI ended Richard Dunn's brave and defiant challenge for his World heavyweight crown as the dawn broke here today.



Gutty but overmatched, Dunn would last five rounds—and become the answer to a trivia question: Name the last kayo victim of Muhammad Ali's career.

THE FIGHT

To accommodate American television, the bout was held at 3:30 a.m., and 11,000 insomniacs showed up at Olympic Hall for what would be the last kayo victory of Ali's career.

A 9-1 underdog, the 6'3" Dunn, 206½, fought aggressively from the start. A relatively well-conditioned Ali, 220, or 10 pounds lighter than he had scaled for the Young fight, easily captured the first two rounds. Dunn rallied in the third, but midway through the fourth, the champion struck with a straight right and—*boom!*—Dunn's Mr. Softee chin failed him again. Two more right-hand knockdowns followed, and in the fifth, Dunn fell twice more. He was on his feet but stumbling along the ropes when referee Herbert Thomser called a halt at the 2:05 mark.

"Five times down?" an incredulous Dunn said afterward. "I didn't know there were that many."

"Had I been in the same shape tonight as I was against Jimmy Young, Dunn would have been the champion," said Ali.

Early in his career, when Dunn was losing with alarming regularity, his wife, Janet, who happened to be the daughter of his trainer, urged him to keep punching. But even her support and encouragement couldn't help Poor Richard absorb a punch. He fought only twice more, losing the British-Commonwealth and European titles to Joe Bugner via first-round kayo, and falling in five rounds to rising South African Kallie Knoetze. Dunn retired in 1977 with a career mark of 33-12 (15).

At least he had done better than Jean-Pierre Coopman. ■

The Man Behind The Legend

By Nigel Collins

They say a man bares his soul inside the boxing ring, reveals his true character in the crucible of man-to-man combat. But do we ever really know our boxing heroes? Even after decades in the public spotlight, some fighters remain a mystery, a never-ending paradox, shrouded in disturbing contradictions. Carlos Monzon was one of these fighters.

Some things we know for sure. He was born August 7, 1942, and died January 8, 1995. In the

Monzon was a relative unknown when he won the world middleweight title from Nino Benvenuti in 1970, then quickly kayoed the Italian in the rematch (left). Suddenly, the poor boy from Sante Fe was wearing fancy suits, and he and manager Tito Lectoure were meeting with Argentine President Alejandro Agustin Lanusse (below).

Even in death, Monzon was loved in his homeland, as his coffin is carried through Santa Fe.

DID WE EVER GET TO KNOW THE *REAL* CARLOS MONZON?

Monzon, a tall middleweight, was dwarfed by his trophies. In the '70s, only two other champions were ranked in his class—Roberto Duran and Muhammad Ali.

52 years and five months between those two dates, he lived a life filled with great triumphs and tragedies. The events themselves are a matter of public record. But the man remains an enigma, even to those who followed his illustrious career and subsequent fall from grace.

For many there is no riddle: Monzon was simply one of the greatest middleweight champions of all-time. For many others he was a murderer, a savage brute who killed the mother of his youngest child. How can you reconcile the bravery he always showed in the boxing ring with the cowardly act that sent him to jail for the last six years of his life?

It's undeniable Monzon was a violent man. But at the height of his fame, at a time when he was the toast of Paris' cafe society and the most famous athlete in his native Argentina, he never forgot his humble roots. Every Christmas he would rent a truck, fill it with toys, and distribute them to the children of the ghetto where he was raised. Aloof and cold with strangers, he was fiercely loyal to his friends, quick to dig into his pockets to help a down-and-out buddy.

Even in death, Monzon remained a controversial figure, lionized by some for his fistic feats, vilified by others for his crimes.

Monzon's life ended on a lonely country road near Santa Rosa de Calchines, approximately 50 miles from his hometown of Santa Fe. But Monzon was not on his way to the dusty old town where he first put on the gloves as a malnourished kid. Following a weekend furlough, he was returning to his cell at Las Flores Prison, where he was serving an 11-year sentence for the 1988 slaying of Alicia Muniz.

The Renault 19 carrying Monzon and two other passengers went out of control and flipped over several times before coming to rest in a ditch. Monzon was thrown several feet from the car and was dead by the time rescuers arrived on the scene. His body was taken to the local morgue, where it was identified by Monzon's oldest son, Abel. Another passenger, policeman Geronimo Motura, was also killed, while their traveling companion, Alicia Guadalupe Sessia, escaped with relatively minor injuries.

The mixed reaction to Monzon's death in Argentina was typical of the way he had always been viewed in his homeland. In Santa Fe, he was given a wild send-off, reminiscent of a smaller scale of the Ayatollah Khomeini's fu al in Iran. A crowd of 30,000 mourners surro ed the coffin, chanting and cheering as if were at a sporting event. To the poor peop the provinces, Monzon was one of them remained a beloved hero despite his transg sions.

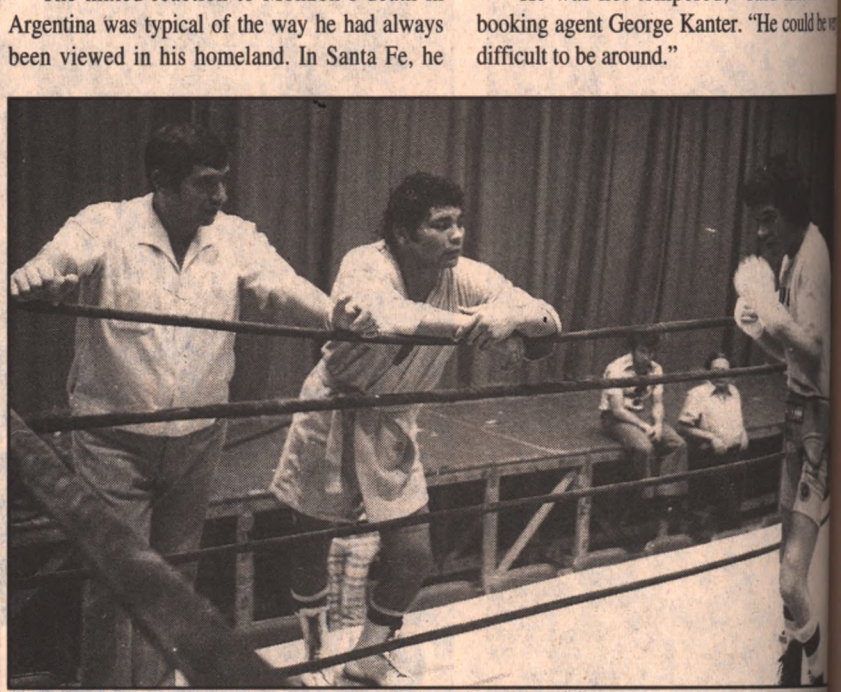
However, in Buenos Aries and other mopolitan areas, many viewed Monzon as a lain, a woman-killer. But even before he st gled his estranged lover and threw her off a b cony, Monzon had difficulty gaining total acc tance in much of his homeland. Like many Argentina's economically deprived lower cl he was of Indian heritage, a member of oppressed minority. The country's ruling aris racy and large segments of the bourgeoi always looked down their noses at him, vagu unhappy that a man of such lowly origins b become so rich and famous.

Outside of Argentina, Monzon was virtua unknown until he knocked out Nino Benvenut win the world middleweight title in Novemb '70. But as his fame grew, his image quick came into focus.

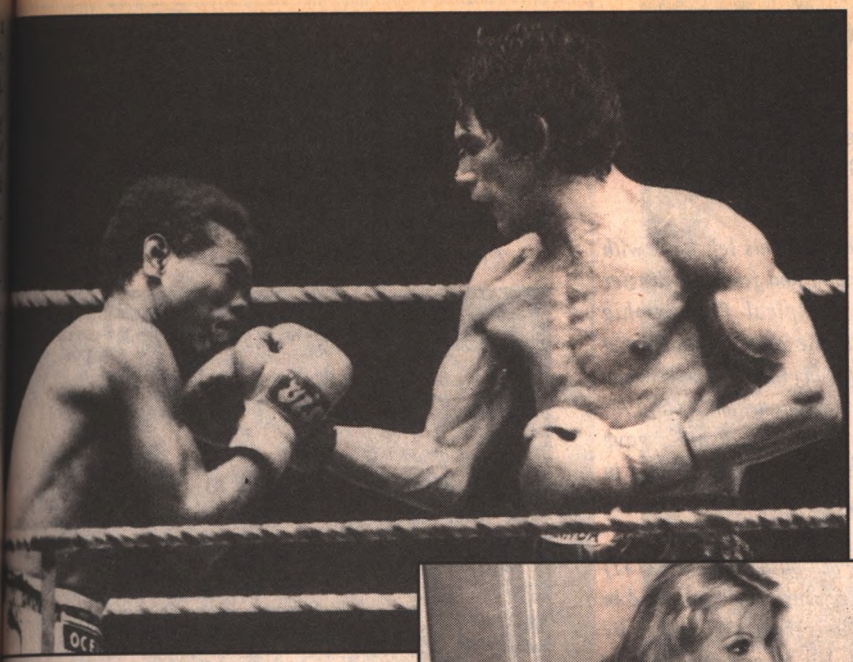
"All of his life he is angry," said Ti Lectoure, the Argentine promoter who guide Monzon's career.

"He was an angry, nasty guy who'd spit your eye," said Emile Griffith, who twice lost Monzon in title bouts, first by TKO in 1971, an again in '73 on points.

"He was hot-tempered," said internationa booking agent George Kanter. "He could be ve difficult to be around."



While they weren't the first Argentine world champions, Monzon and Victor Galindez (outside ropes with manager Tito Lectoure) helped popularize the Sweet Science in their boxing-crazy coun



Monzon's record championship run was highlighted by his last two defenses, a pair of wars vs. Colombia's Rodrigo Valdes (above). The Valdes fights took their toll, and the champion's wounds were soothed by actress Susan Gimenez (right).

Anger drove Monzon, helped make him a great fighter, and led to his downfall. It was a monumental anger, one that grew out of an impoverished background and a childhood foreshortened by the necessities of survival. As a boy he sold newspapers, shined shoes, and delivered milk, anything to help feed his family of 12 brothers and sisters. And by the time he first arrived at the dank, dirt-floor gym in the basement of the Club Atletico Union in Santa Fe, the rage inside Monzon had already given him a dangerous edge. It was at this juncture that trainer Amilcar Brusa took the skinny waif under his wing, fattened him up with food and vitamins, and gradually transformed him into a magnificent fighter.

Monzon never became a classic stylist. Awkward and somewhat stiff of movement, he was nonetheless a skillful boxer who knew how to take full advantage of his imposing reach. He was tough, resilient, and difficult to hit, with a potent right hand that sent men spinning dizzily to the canvas. He was seldom flashy or flamboyant, just extremely effective.

It didn't take Monzon long to compensate for his bleak beginnings. As soon as the big money started rolling in, he developed a taste for life's intoxicating pleasures—fast cars, fancy women, expensive clothes. He cavorted with movie stars, including French actors Jean-Paul Belmondo and Alain Delon (who helped promote Monzon's February '74 defense against reigning welterweight champion Jose Napoles in Paris), and dumped his first wife, Beatriz Garcia, in order to take up with sultry actress Susan Gimenez.

After his retirement, Monzon trained a few Argentine fighters, like Dario Matteoni. But he grew restless and never found peace outside the ring.

Women were drawn by his smoldering good looks and his animal magnetism, and Monzon reveled in his role as international playboy. "He was very macho," recalled Kanter. "But I must say, it seemed as though the women chased *him*."

Monzon usually showed total disdain for the media, acting bored and impatient at public functions. He once told a reporter that the three things he hated most were reporters, photographers, and questions about his chronically injured right hand. Still, there was something captivating about his arrogant demeanor. When Monzon entered a room, all eyes turned in his direction.

"Monzon is almost stately, with the bearing of a Inca chief," wrote Larry Merchant when Monzon came to the United States to defend the title against Tony Licata in June '73. "He fights with imperial fury."

By then, the emaciated kid from the slums of Santa Fe was a handsome man of almost 6-feet. Like his jet-set friends, he wore his hair fashionably long and favored hip-hugging bell-bottoms and sports shirts opened to the waist. As writer Marshall Reed noted, Monzon looked "like an overgrown Mick Jagger."

The regal champion also loved to fly in the face of convention, shocking boxing's old guard with his cavalier attitude. When he came to New York City for the Licata bout (his only fight in the U.S.), Monzon was accompanied by the slinky, spandex-clad Gimenez. Plans for them to make a spaghetti western were already in the works, and as far as Monzon was concerned, the title fight at Madison Square Garden was little more than a prelude to the pleasures to follow.

"After the fight, I will smoke a cigarette, drink a cold glass of wine, and go make the movie," Monzon told the press prior to dispatching Licata via 10th-round knockout. "I will be number one in movies, too."

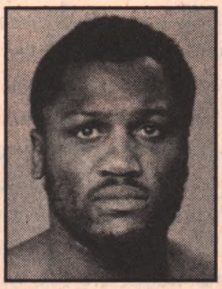
While Monzon's movie career failed to reach the grand proportions he envisioned, his boxing

(Continued on page 79)

Heavyweights

Joe Frazier

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Career: 1965-1976; 1981
32-4-1 with 27 kayos



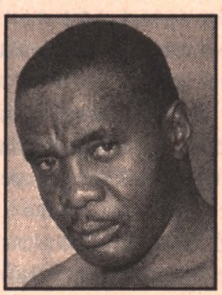
Winging his left hook with abandon and ferocity, Frazier was a typical Philadelphia fighter. He loved to fight chest to chest, bang the body, and engage in battles of attrition. At 5'11½", "Smokin' Joe" usually gave away height and reach. But in battles of heart, he was the ultimate warrior.

In March 1968, Frazier stopped Buster Mathis (KO 11) to win the New York State-recognized world title, and in February 1970, he gained universal acceptance by crushing Jimmy Ellis (KO 5). His biggest win came in defense of the title, a historic March 1971 victory over comebacking former champion Muhammad Ali (W 15).

Frazier defended the title four times before being stopped by George Foreman (KO by 2) in January 1973. He fought Ali twice more, losing by 12-round decision in 1974 and by 14th-round stoppage in "The Thrilla In Manila" in 1975. He remains among the most popular champions in history.

Sonny Liston

Denver, Colorado
Career: 1953-1970
50-4 with 39 kayos



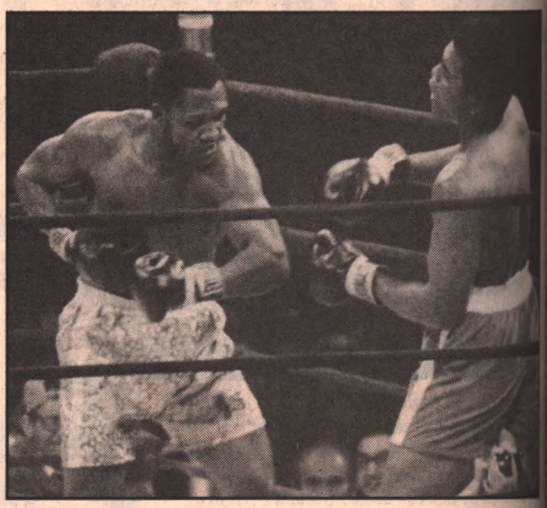
Liston fought in four heavyweight title bouts, with three ending in the first round. Among the most feared fighters in history, the thickly built assassin with an 84-inch reach featured a dominant jab, knockout power in either fist, and the most menacing stare in the game.

Liston won the title with a kayo of Floyd Patterson in September 1962. In his only successful defense, he kayoed Patterson 10 months later.

A 7-1 favorite to defeat Cassius Clay, Liston lost the crown by seventh-round TKO in February 1964. Fifteen months later, Clay, who had changed his name to Muhammad Ali, repeated the win by controversial first-round knockout. (The kayo punch seemed relatively harmless.) Liston was never again a serious contender.

On December 30, 1970, Liston, 38, died in his Las Vegas home of an apparent drug overdose.

Fight fans will forever debate the merits of champions who never met in the ring. In "Battle Of The Legends," the editors of THE RING *play matchmaker and pit two of the all-time greats against each other. Three experts serve as judges. If there are particular dream matches that you'd like to see featured, please write to us.*



Frazier follows through on a thunderous left hook in his first bout against Muhammad Ali. "Smokin' Joe" won a 15-round decision.

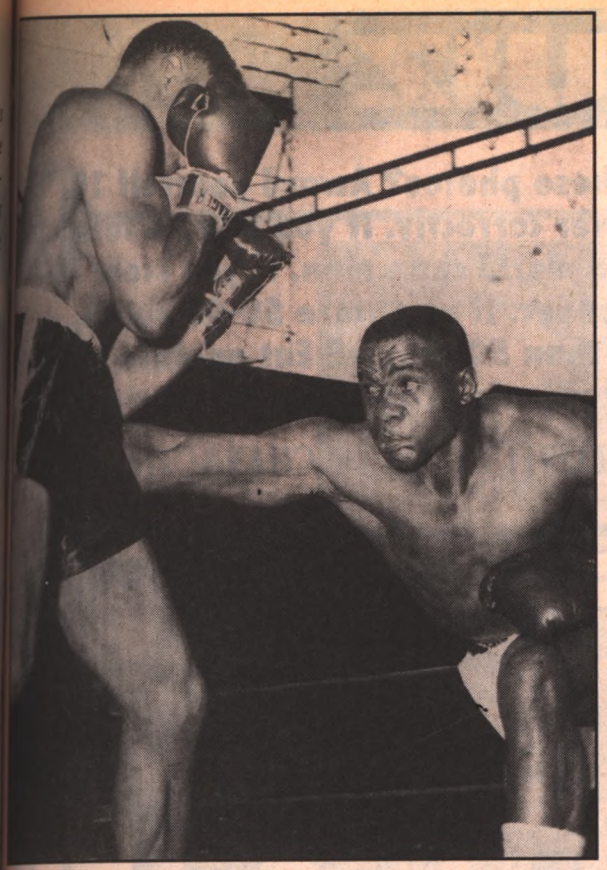
ANGELO DUNDEE

Liston was the dreadnought of the division. You'd mention him and guys would shake in their boots. I did a lot of homework on him and he was outstanding. To lick him, you had to get past his jab, which was a tree trunk. He was very strong and took a good shot. He stood tall—he had people thinking he was like 6'9"—but he was only about 6'1". He was very sharp—he always kept little people around him, which made him look bigger. He was more a pure banger than Frazier. I saw him knock a guy's teeth out with gloves on. Today, he'd go through all these guys.

Frazier was a great fighter who should count his blessings that he was fighting when Ali was around because they made for a perfect blend. He was a busy-body; I don't remember anyone ever fighting just like him. He feinted well and was much slicker than anyone gave him credit for. Liston had trouble with movement, but not Joe's kind of movement, which was bobbing and weaving.

This would be the ultimate matchup styles-wise. Joe wouldn't be able to do anything with the guy from the outside. Liston would open him up with the jab and follow with other shots. Liston would've beaten Frazier, would've stopped him in the seventh, eighth, ninth rounds.

Angelo Dundee trained Muhammad Ali, who twice beat Liston and won two of three from Frazier. He also handled Jimmy Ellis, who was twice stopped by Frazier.



Liston maximizes his leverage during a 1960 bout vs. Eddie Machen. Then the heavyweight division's top-rated contender, he won a 12-round verdict.

Jerry Quarry will attest to the fact that Frazier preferred infighting to fancy-dan boxing. Frazier twice defeated Quarry in savage contests.

LARRY MERCHANT

Stylewise, Liston would appear to have an edge. He was a classic boxer-puncher with power in both hands, and he'd be matched against a really aggressive brawler in Frazier. But his record in championship fights is so suspect. He twice overpowered Floyd Patterson, whom he outweighed by 25 pounds, and twice quit against Muhammad Ali. I think Frazier would have surely found a way to beat Liston.

No one ever put more of himself into what he did than Frazier. At his very best, I don't think anyone but Ali would've beaten him. Liston was a classic bully; if someone like Frazier tested or confronted him, he'd have found a way to lose.

There's a fascination with Liston that's based on his power, as well as the tragic elements of his career and life. If, for example, Larry Holmes had twice quit in championship fights, he would've been dismissed and forgotten. After Liston lost the second time to Ali, he knocked over a bunch of tomato cans. The first time he fought a rated fighter, Leotis Martin, he got the s__ kicked out of him. Of course, that was an older Liston. Maybe we never even saw him in his prime.

Given Frazier's qualities as a fighter and especially a champion, I pick him to win by eighth-, ninth-, or 10th-round stoppage.

Larry Merchant, formerly a sportswriter and editor in Philadelphia and New York, currently works as a boxing analyst for HBO.

FLOYD PATTERSON

This would be a hell of an exciting fight. You have two heavyweights who always fight aggressively and never back off. It would be hard for either guy to fight going backward, so I think the difference would be strength and determination.

Liston had a great jab, and he was a very good puncher who took a good punch, too. Most guys tried to box him because of his power, but in Frazier he'd be matched with a fighter who was as aggressive as he was. I always thought Liston had a lot of courage and heart, but that didn't always last all the way through a fight. It wasn't that way with Frazier. I never fought Frazier because I was finishing when he was just coming up. But I saw that he was an incredibly determined fighter.

Frazier would try and get inside and throw a lot of punches; it wouldn't so much be a strategy, but rather the only way he knew how to fight. Liston would jab and try and follow with powerpunches. If he landed, he could hurt Frazier, but to score a knockout, he'd have to catch him inside the first six rounds. After that, it would be Joe all the way.

Liston would land his jab and take an early lead, but Joe would back him up after the midway point. I see Frazier scoring a stoppage in the late rounds, maybe round 12 or 13.

Floyd Patterson was twice stopped in one round by Liston in title bouts. The first heavyweight to regain the title, he reigned from 1956 to 1959, and again from 1960 to 1962.

THE RING'S EXCLUSIVE

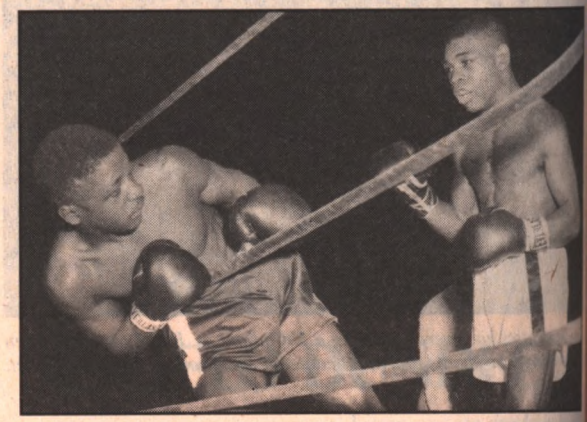
PHOTO QUIZ TEST

Can you identify the fighters in these photos? Award yourself 10 points for each question you answer correctly. If you score a total of 90-100 points, consider yourself a world champion. If you score 70-80 points, you rate as a top-10 contender. If you score 50-60 points, you're a clubfighter at best. Less than 50 points? Eat another piece of cheesecake and forget about that morning roadwork.

THIS MONTH: A COLORFUL CAST OF CHARACTERS

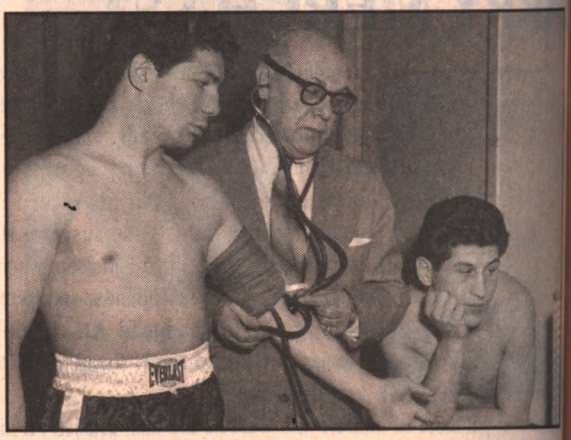
1

By outpointing top-10 contender Percy Bassett over 12 rounds, this featherweight (right) secured a shot at the world title.



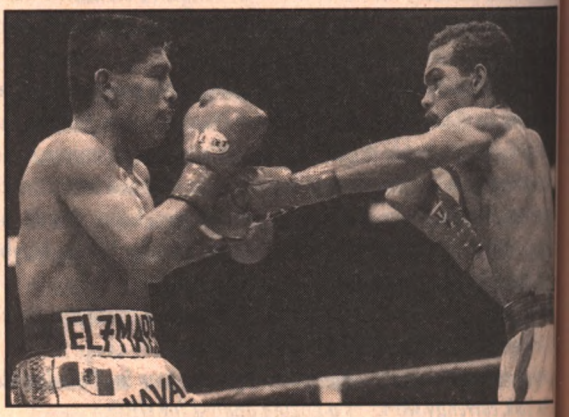
2

Joey Giardello checks out the blood pressure of his opponent, a tough middleweight from Brooklyn who peaked in the '40s. In their 1953 bout, Giardello won by 10-round decision.



3

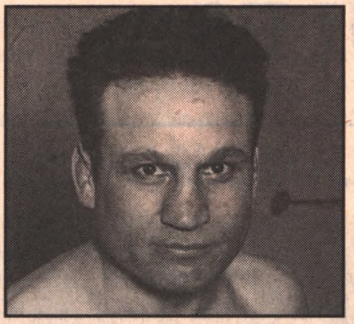
Last August, defending 115-pound champion Julio Borboa was unable to handle this Colombian, who took the IBF crown on points.



YOUR BOXING IQ

4

This Chicago lightweight possessed one of the most feared left hooks in division history. He even floored the immortal Benny Leonard.



5

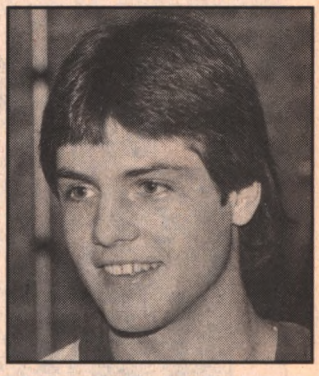
This active featherweight can't seem to secure a deserved shot at a world title. In the Philadelphia tradition, he's a tough, all-action fighter..

6

A longtime contender, this welterweight fought for the world title three times but failed to win the big one.

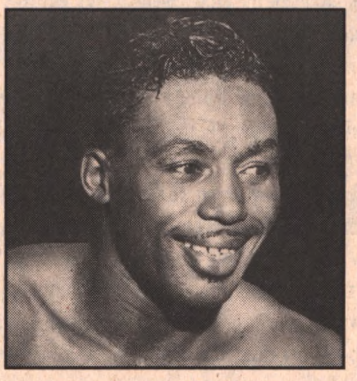
7

This lightweight won his first 22 pro bouts before encountering the educated fists of then-world champion Harry Arroyo. The result was an eighth-round kayo loss.



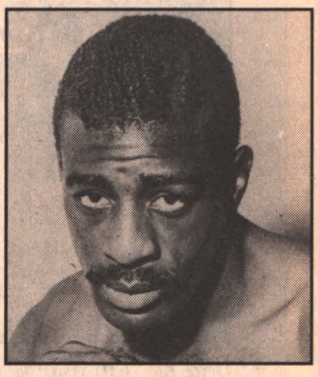
8

Few lighter-weight world champions have reigned longer than this boxer-puncher, a globetrotter who fought out of New Orleans.



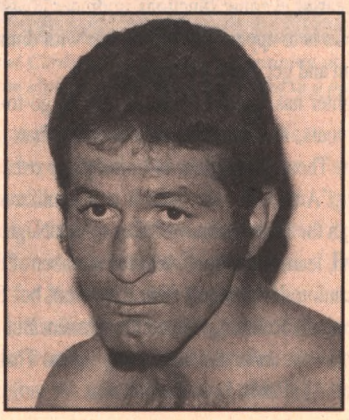
9

Some fighters are remembered only for who they fought. Such is the case with this heavy-weight, who in 1972 went 11 rounds with a living legend.



10

Though not as heavy-handed as his younger brother, this Californian-based welterweight was a perennial contender who twice unsuccessfully challenged for world honors.



ANSWERS:

1) Teddy "Red Top" Davis
2) Harold Green
3) Harold Grey
4) Charley White
5) Tony Green
6) Clyde Gray
7) Charlie "White Lightning" Brown
8) Joe Brown
9) Al "Blue" Lewis
10) Ernie "Indian Red" Lopez

By Stanley Weston
Publisher, THE RING Magazine

TIME CAPSULES

AH, PAREE, HOW SWEET IT WAS!

(March 1911)

Paris, the fabled "City Of Light," has, from the days of Ben Franklin, been a magnet for fun-loving Americans. But in the first two decades of the 20th century, that magnet was intensified 100-fold when waved under the noses of black American prize fighters. Plagued by abuse and discrimination in their homeland, they were, in Paris, offered not only total equality, but instant celebrity, and in some cases adulation otherwise reserved for royalty. Jack Johnson, the world heavyweight champion without a country, found the city "heaven on this rotten earth."

Dixie Kid (left) visits with his old foe, the immortal Sam Langford, at Langford's camp just outside Paris, where "The Boston Tar Baby" was training for a bout with Sam McVey in April 1911. Dixie often said, "The worst part about being in Paris is leaving."

In 1910 and 1911, a group of black American boxers, some extraordinarily talented, were based in the Paris suburb of Neuilly, where a wealthy sportsman named Jim Pratt owned a sprawling estate complete with horse barns, roller skating rink, and as luck would have it, one of the most modern gymnasiums in all of France. As luck would also have it, Monsieur Pratt happened to be a boxing fanatic who was overjoyed for the privilege of throwing open his entire estate for unrestricted use by Les Americans.

A 1911 roll call of black American pugs in the City of Light included superstars Sam McVey, Bob Armstrong, Joe Jeannette, Dixie Kid, and Jim Johnson. But the standout among these superstars was an immortal who, although only 5'6", was a giant among even the super heavyweights of his time and without question one of the greatest fighters who ever lived. They called him "The Boston Tar Baby," but his real name was Sam Langford.

A racially slanted piece in a Boston newspaper of the time, never once mentioning hometown hero Langford, poked barbs at the "sinful" goings-on in Paris:

"Life is one rosy dream for the Negro pug in Paris. Society calls him a hero, and every time he condescends to appear in public—which he does quite often—whether in street clothes, evening clothes, or fight togs, he gets a big hand. At the indoor bicycle races, at prize fights in which they take part as mere spectators, at roller skating rinks, everywhere, such fist manipulators as McVey and Jeannette are hailed with hip-hip-hoorays that would make a matinee idol in the States go away and weep for the coldness of his public.

"Most of these fellows appear at evening functions in dinner coats or full dress. Even when they are scheduled to fight, the thing to do is to appear first at ringside with dinner coat, give the spectators a flash, then retire to their dressing room and get into their fighting togs.

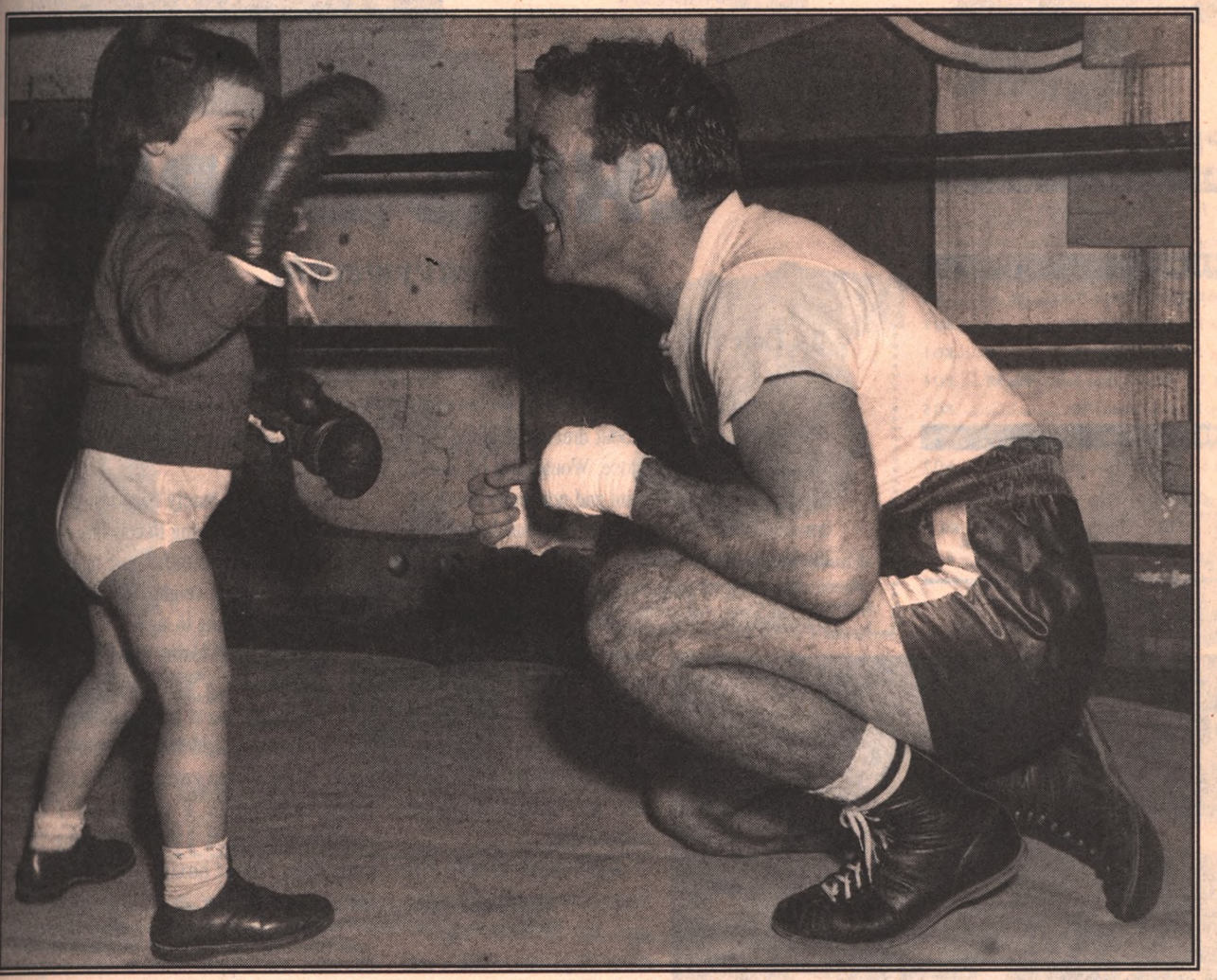
"On the street the black fighter has 'em all going. American go-to-meetings are all the rage; trousers rolled up at the bottom, long coats, American shoes, American hats. De brudder from de States is the fashion plate of the boulevards. The dusky fighter is in his glory over there in Paris. The women take a tremendous shine to Monsieur, l'American noir. And it is a familiar sight to see these pretty, elegantly dressed white girls going through the latest mazes of dance with a Negro pug … "

There was this one rather tall, lean, and quite handsome member of the group freeloading at Jim Pratt's place in Neuilly named Bob Scanlon. He couldn't fight a little bit, but Bobby was a master at tying up his foes, which brought boos and catcalls from disgruntled Frenchmen. But the girls just went limp at the sight of his ebony body glistening in sweat under the bright ring lights. That alone was enough to get Scanlon enough work to make ends meet. Ah, Paree. How sweet it was.

THIRTY-FIVE DAYS TO DISASTER

(September 22, 1949)

The photographer's orders were to "get some good human interest shots of Marcel Cerdan," which in the trade means get a kid or an animal into the pictures. The technique never fails because when such a photograph appears in the newspapers, it strokes public sentiment and often fuels enough interest in a forthcoming event to inspire ticket-buying, or in modern terms, pay-per-view sales. This picture of former middleweight champion Cerdan hamming it up with a four-year-old girl is the perfect human interest shot. Sadly, it's never been published before, and when it was taken, there was no hint of the tragic series of events that would soon follow. It's a photo that also bears historic significance because it is believed to be one of the last images of the great French idol-of-idols taken in America.



Former middleweight champion Marcel Cerdan enjoys a break in training at his upstate New York camp while preparing for a return title bout with Jake LaMotta. Thirty-five days later, the idolized Frenchman was killed in a plane crash in the Azores.

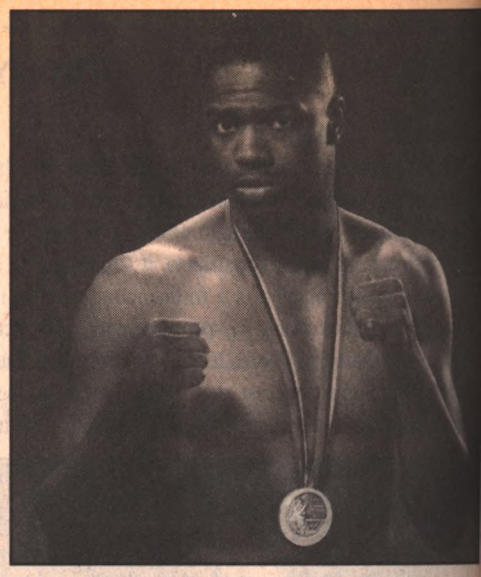
In June 1949, an arm injury forced Cerdan to quit in a title defense against Jake LaMotta in Detroit. A return was scheduled for September 28, 1949, in New York. Cerdan sailed for America in late-August on the luxury liner Ile de France and went immediately into training at Loch Sheldrake in upstate New York. He was never in better mental or physical condition. But a few days before the scheduled bout, LaMotta pulled out because of strained fibers in his neck muscles. Bitterly dejected, Cerdan returned to Paris to await developments.

When December 2, 1949, was designated as the new date of battle, Cerdan started light training in France, and on October 27, boarded an Air France Constellation in Paris for the Atlantic crossing. Thank the good Lord his wife and two sons did not accompany him on the journey. Tragically, that giant Constellation, with one of Air France's finest pilots at the controls, never even came close to its final destination, instead slamming into a mountain peak in the Azores, killing all 47 passengers aboard.

LaMotta was heart-sick upon learning of Cerdan's death. "He was a swell guy," he sobbed. "A wife. A couple of kids. You never know. I guess this fight wasn't meant to be."

Just by looking at the wonderfully happy expression on the great French champion's face as he frolics with the little girl, you know he's really enjoying himself, and not just acting for the next day's newspapers. As fate would have it, 35 days after the picture was taken in upstate New York, nothing was left of his body on that mountaintop in the distant Azores. ■

NEW FACES



PRO RECORD

1993		
Jan. 28	Gary Smith, Flint, MI	W 6
May 15	Mike Sullivan, Flint	KO 1
1994		
March 22	Exum Speight, Flint	W 6
June 10	Gerard O'Neil, Flint	KO 2
Aug. 30	Maxwell Key, Flint	KO 1
Oct. 4	Waxxem Fikes, Auburn Hills, MI	KO 4
Nov. 1	Ron Gullette, Flint	KO 5
1995		
Jan. 6	Frankie Hines, Virginia Beach, VA	KO 2

FIGHTS	WON	LOST	DREW	KO
8	8	0	0	6

CHRIS BYRD

Heavyweight

By Eric Karabell

Every fighter who has to drop 20 or 30 pounds before a bout dreams of doing what Chris Byrd has done. Wouldn't it be nice to be able to eat all you want and not worry about the consequences? This is the joy Byrd has been living the last couple of years.

The 1992 Olympic team didn't exactly shine in Barcelona, but Byrd, competing as a middleweight, came home with a silver medal. His father, Joe, was the head coach. Great things were expected of the southpaw from Flint, Michigan. But not great things at *heavyweight*.

Byrd looks a little different now than he did a few years ago. He's a lot bigger—about 50 pounds worth—and the middleweight is now a rising heavyweight. Rising in weight *and* potential.

With only eight pro fights under his ever-expanding belt, Byrd makes sure not to compare himself to today's top fighters. But that doesn't stop him from describing himself as a cross between Pernell Whitaker and Roy Jones. A la Whitaker, Byrd has the defensive ability to play catch-me-if-you-can, and he has yet to be caught. And, like Jones, his hands are lightning-quick, the punches a nightmare to count, and even more difficult to defend against.

Byrd, 26, has barely been tested. The biggest problem has been trying to convince everyone that a fighter generally identified as a middleweight can make it as a heavyweight. The best part is being able to eat everything in sight.

"I always hated losing weight," said Byrd, who stands 6'2" and is a well-constructed 215 pounds with a muscular chest and broad shoulders. "After the Olympics, I said forget it. Now I eat like a horse. A lot of heavyweights aren't up to my skill level, and when I moved up I kept my middleweight speed. I think in the ring. Not about knockouts, about boxing. Going rounds is my thing."

Byrd says people can't believe how fast he is, but what will happen when he faces a fighter like, say, Chris Byrd? At the Olympics, Cuba's Ariel Hernandez outByrded Byrd by employing the same defensive style. Byrd always lets the fight come to him, but that time it did not. He and Hernandez entered the third round tied 4-4 on points, but Byrd changed his game plan and lost 12-7.

Joe Byrd continues to train Chris, along with two of his other sons, Tim, a light heavyweight, and Patrick, a junior middleweight. Unlike many father-son combinations, this one hasn't gone awry. The offers from managers interested in

(Continued on page 7

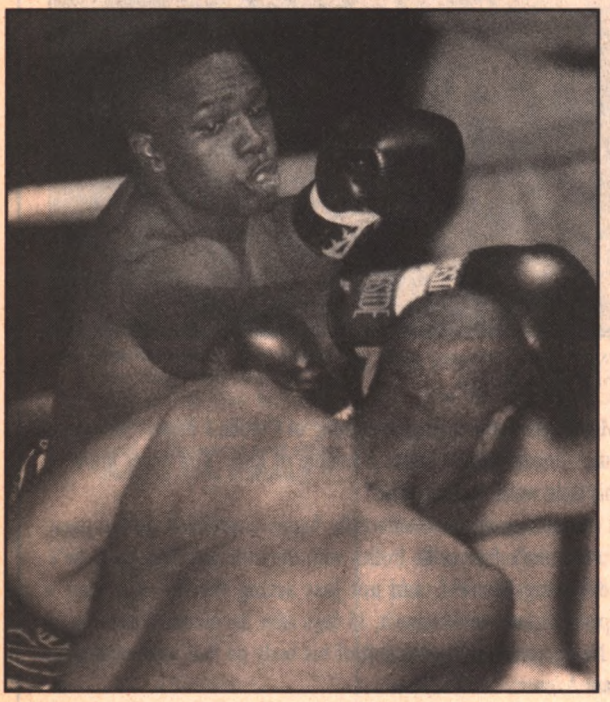


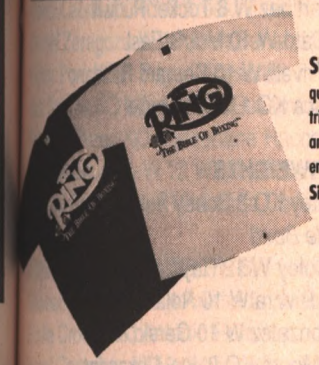
Photo courtesy of *Flint Journal*

Byrd guns for Maxwell Key

The Ring Sportswear Collection

The Ring Tradition continues ...

Over the past 70 years, *The Ring* has established a tradition of unsurpassed excellence. That tradition continues with *The Ring* Sportswear Collection, featuring the highest quality apparel available!



T-SHIRT: You'll look like a world champ when wearing The Ring T-shirt. This quality "T" is the standard by which all others are judged. This preshrunk cotton shirt features a three color logo - red, white, & gold - on a black shirt or red, black, & gold on a white shirt. Available in black or white.
Sizes: S, M, L, XL, XXL **$14.95**

SHORTS: Perfect for running or everday use, these quality shorts are made of 100% cotton and are trimmed in red. Other features include side pockets, an elastic waist with a draw-string, and an embroidered four-color Ring logo.
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SUMMARY

HEAVYWEIGHTS
Tommy Morrison KO 1 Ken Merritt
Frank Bruno KO 1 Rodolfo Marin
Buster Mathis Jr. W 10 Kenny Smith
Andrew Golota KO 1 Dwayne Hall
Danell Nicholson KO 1 Larry Davis
Danell Nicholson KO 2 Terry Anderson
John Ruiz W 10 Boris Powell
Peter McNeeley KO 1 Joe Barnes
Peter McNeeley KO 1 Kevin Wyrick
Samson Po'uha KO 1 Martin Foster
Mario Scheisser KO 9 Steffen Wiesenthal
Tim Puller W 10 Mike Dixon

CRUISERWEIGHTS
Bobby Crabtree W 12 Kenny Keene
Nate Miller KO 2 Carlton West
Keith McKnight KO 2 Tyrus Armistead
Dennis Andries KO 11 Denzil Browne
Terry Ray W 12 Tim Johnson
Akim Tafer KO 6 Eugene Taima
Reynaldo Gimenez W 12 Jose DaSilva

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
Henry Maske W 12 Egerton Marcus
(Retains IBF Title)
Montell Griffin W 12 James Toney
Anthony Hembrick KO 6 Rudy Nix
Ginger Tshabalala W 10 David Vedder
Duran Williams KO 2 Larry Carlisle

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Cornelius Carr W 8 Colin Manners
Ali Forbes W 12 Fidel Castro Smith
Andrei Shakalikov KO 5 Mark Cameron

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Dana Rosenblatt KO 4 Randy Williams
Lonnie Bradley KO 5 Luis Vasquez
Glenwood Brown W 8 Nate Woods
Darrin Morris KO 2 Marris Virgil
Howard Davis Jr. W 10 Joaquin Velasquez

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Julio Cesar Vasquez KO 1 Mike Bonislowski
(Non-Title Bout)
Verno Phillips W 12 Santos Cardona
Julio Cesar Green KO 1 Bill Bradley
Winky Wright W 12 Tony Marshall
Bronco McKart KO 8 Darrell Woods
Steve Martinez W 8 Tocker Pudwill
Jintoku Sato W 10 Morris East
Thierry Triveill W 10 Bernard Razzano
Jorge Vaca KO 1 Mario Maciel

WELTERWEIGHTS
Ike Quartey KO 3 Bobby Butters
(Non-Title Bout)
Derrell Coley W 12 Ray Lovato
Wilfredo Rivera W 10 Roland Rangel
David Gonzalez W 10 Gerald Reed
Rodney Moore KO 2 Joe Alexander
Stephan Johnson KO 3 Humberto Aranda
Tony Martin KO 1 Pee Wee Suarez
Adrian Stone W Disq. 7 Ross Thompson
Vernon Forrest W 6 Carlos Cartagena
Ricky Hesia KO 1 Donald Caples
Kip Diggs W 10 Darryl Lattimore
Dezi Ford KO 1 Pepe Reilly

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS
Kostya Tszyu KO 6 Jake Rodriguez
(Wins IBF Title)
Reggie Green W 12 Rocky Balboa
Charles Murray W 10 Jimmy Deoria
Khalid Rahilou KO 7 Patrick Ballesta
Sammy Fuentes KO 2 Fidel Avendano
George Scott W 10 Jose Fernandez
Corey Johnson W 10 Otilio Villareal
Leonardo Mas W 12 Ameth Aranda

LIGHTWEIGHTS
Rafael Ruelas KO 8 Billy Schwer
(Retains IBF Title)
Oscar De La Hoya W 12 John-John Molina
Ivan Robinson W 10 Lionel Butler
Marty Jakubowski KO 7 Randy Reedy
Phillip Holiday KO 4 Gene Reed
Jean Baptiste-Mendy W 12 Oleg Marchenko

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS
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(Retains WBC Title)
Julian Wheeler W 10 Gabriel Castro

FEATHERWEIGHTS
Tom Johnson W 12 Manuel Medina
(Retains IBF Title)
Steve Robinson W 12 Domingo Damigella

Colin McMillan W 8 Harry Escott
Robert Garcia KO 7 Lorenzo Tiznado
Cris Saguid W 12 Takao Ikeda
Mehdi Labdouni KO 6 Areski Bakir
Daniel Zaragoza W 10 Jose Sanabria
Victor Polo KO 5 Edgar Monserrat
Jun Gorres KO 3 Chucherd Eusampan
Frederic Perez KO 8 Stephane Haccoun
Michael Deveney W 12 Wilson Docherty
Fabrice Benichou W 10 Arlindo DeAbreu

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Eddie Croft W 10 Antonio Ramirez
Israel Contreras KO 9 Johnny Vasquez
Frankie Toledo Tech. Draw 2 Nelson Medina
Yuichi Kasai W 12 Hee Yun Kwon

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Jorge-Eliecer Julio W 10 Luis Ojeda
Yong Hoon Lee KO 3 Gary Garay
Paulie Ayala W 10 Juan Mendoza

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Johnny Tapia W 12 Jose Sosa
Danny Romero KO 3 Javier Cintron
Samson Elite-Gym KO 8 Rolando Pascua

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Yuri Arbachakov W 12 Oscar Arciniega *(Retains WBC Title)*
Mark Johnson KO 3 Leon Salazar
Alberto Jimenez KO 8 Jake Matlala
Hiroki Ioka W 10 Lee Escobido

JUNIOR FLYWEIGHTS

Hi Yong Choi W 12 Leo Gamez *(Wins WBA Title)*
Melchor Cob Castro W 12 Miguel Martinez
Shiro Yahiro KO 1 Nokinsee Au Yuthanakom

STRAWWEIGHTS

Chana Porpaoin W 12 Jin Ho Kim *(Retains WBA Title)*
Nene Sanchez W 12 Rafael Orozco

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RINGSIDE REPORTS

FIGHTER *of the* MONTH

No matter the hype, the pedigree, or the amateur accomplishments, you can never be sure about a young fighter until that first big bout. For Russian-born sensation Tszyu, that bout came against defending IBF junior welterweight champion Jake Rodriguez at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas *(see page 22)*. Fifteen seconds into round one, Rodriguez was flat on his back. For Tszyu, who might have been good enough to have challenged for a world title in his pro debut, we have only one question: What took you so long?

Tszyu went on to floor Rodriguez a total of five times and capture the crown by sixth-round TKO. Just how good can the 25-year-old Australia-based powerpuncher be? It'll probably be a while before we find out. Let's put it this way: If you were the manager of a top-level fighter, would you risk a bout against Tszyu?

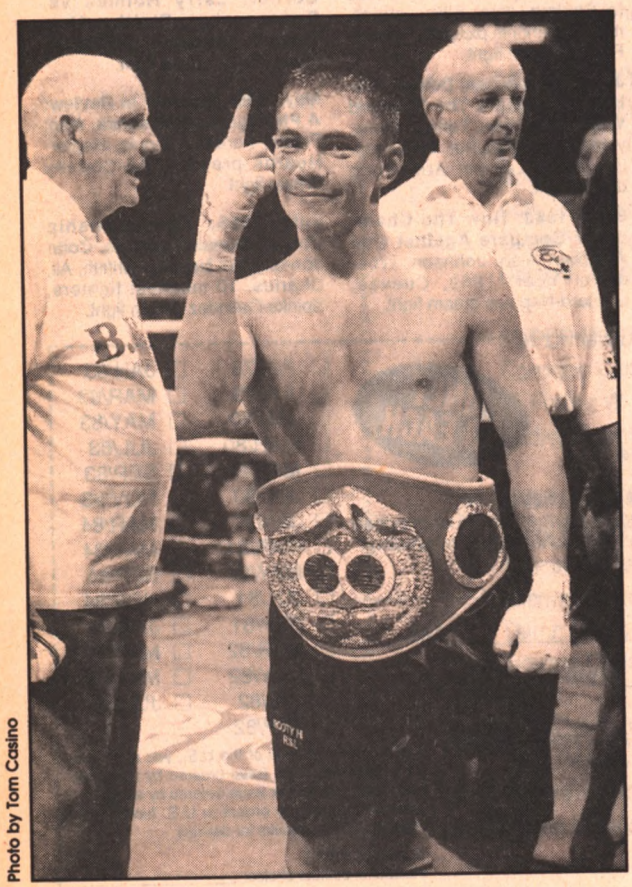


Photo by Tom Casino

• • • •

Kostya Tszyu

Hiroshi Kawashima W 12 Jose Luis Bueno

Yokohama, Japan: Fast-moving southpaw Kawashima outlegged and outmaneuvered former champion Bueno and retained the WBC super flyweight title by unanimous decision before 4,800 fans at Yokohama Cultural Gymnasium. It was the champion's second defense. In May 1994, he dethroned Bueno on points.

A prohibitive favorite, the 24-year-old Kawashima, 114½, Japan, was tentative over the first two rounds, and Bueno, 115, Mexico, scored with a handful of sharp rights to the face. Beginning in the third, however, Kawashima found his rhythm and landed first. He was the busier fighter, but also missed most of his blows, and when he crossed with his left, he often unintentionally butted the 25-year-old challenger. In the seventh, such an occurrence left Bueno on the canvas and grabbing his head in pain. Referee Arthur Mercante (USA) didn't seem sure what to rule, but he issued a count, and the Mexican barely rose in time.

In the eighth, Kawashima, 16-2-1 (12), applied pressure against his fading foe, and Bueno, 25-5-1 (17), responded by firing desperate blows. The end again seemed imminent in the 10th, but Kawashima's inaccurate punching cost him a stoppage victory. Bueno stunned the crowd—and Kawashima—by rallying in the 11th, and the champion reeled against the ropes. Kawashima also gave away the 12th, but he was clearly far ahead on points.

Lou Filippo scored 119-109, Tom Kaczmarek 116-111, and Chuck Hassett 115-114. All three judges are from the USA.

Despite great expectations, Kawashima failed to raise his stock on this night.

Promoters: Kyokuto and Yonekura Promotions

(1-18-95)

Joe Koizumi

Tom Johnson W 12 Manuel Medina

Atlantic City, New Jersey: Johnson may have finally gotten Medina out of his life, but by no means was his victory, the rubber match in their three-fight series, a decisive one. Defending the IBF featherweight title for the sixth time, "Boom Boom" scored a unanimous but disputed decision at Bally's Park Place.

Perhaps the two had become too wary of each other. In their first meeting, then-champion Medina retained the title by cut-eye technical decision in 1991; in bout two, Johnson took the crown by split verdict. Chapter three was like a drive-by shooting with one foot on the brake and the other on the gas. Both Johnson, 125¾, Detroit, and Medina, 125, Tijuana, Mexico, came with serious intentions and threw a lot of punches. But neither would commit to settling down and taking aim. The product was a blur of frenetic activity, with many missed and glancing punches, no recognizable pattern, and virtually no decisive rounds.

The challenger was generally the aggressor, while the titleholder made better use of counters, especially with his right hand. But there was so much movement that most of the punches were landed on the fly.

For all his persistence, only occasionally was Medina, 49-6 (23), able to force the action on the inside. Both fighters are rangy, but it was the 30-year-old Johnson, 38-2-1 (22), who seemed to maintain his desired distance. The packed house enjoyed the fast pace, but at the end, it was not clear at all who had won. Only moments before the sound of the final bell, Medina suffered a bad cut over his left eye. However, it was not a factor.

The decision of the three American judges was unanimously in Johnson's favor. Frank Brunette and John Stewart scored 116-112 and Al DeVito 115-113. (THE RING scored 117-112 for Johnson.) A measure of the closeness of the bout: The judges agreed on only three rounds, all for Johnson.

Many ringsiders felt the 27-year-old challenger had won, but the crux of their argument came down to his having made Johnson miss a lot. That may have been so, but the punches landed by Johnson, while not enough to dissuade Medina, were the sharper and cleaner blows.

Medina complained bitterly about the decision, but was again countered by Johnson, who said, " ... A fighter should not complain because of what the decision may be. I lost a technical decision in which we fought [for] someone who was promoting him. I accepted a defeat in which I know I won. I didn't blame the judges when they took the fight from me, and it really hurts me to hear a warrior go to those extremes without accepting defeat ... As a warrior, you do not look for someone to blame."

The referee was Rudy Battle (USA).

Promoter: Garden State Boxing

(1-28-95)

J.R. Jowett

Photo by Jason Ross Lavin

After 12 tough rounds, Medina shows his wounds

Rafael Ruelas KO 8 Billy Schwer

Las Vegas, Nevada: On a pay-per-view card at the MGM Grand Garden, IBF lightweight champion Ruelas moved closer to a May 6 showdown with Oscar De La Hoya by stopping Schwer on cuts. He also joined WBC super featherweight champion Gabe Ruelas as the first brothers to successfully defend world titles on the same card. Gabe stopped Freddie Liberatore in two rounds.

Making his second defense, Ruelas, 135, Sylmar, California, was a 6-1 favorite to reject the challenge of British-Commonwealth champion Schwer, 134, Luton, England. He methodically wore down the game challenger, opening cuts around both eyes and finding his rhythm after a

characteristically slow start.

"It took me a while to get going," said the 23-year-old champion, "because Schwer was as strong as I expected him to be. He caught me with some good shots, particularly in the first round. There was a moment when I slipped near the ropes. I was looking down and Schwer got me with a big right hand. It was a legal punch. No complaint."

Despite fighting outside of the United Kingdom for the first time in his five-year career, Schwer, 25, was confident enough to wager $3,350 of his $80,000 purse on an upset. (Ruelas pocketed $300,000.) But while he started strongly, pressuring Ruelas with head and shoulder feints and a troublesome left hook, his tender skin ultimately betrayed him.

Ruelas had Schwer bleeding from the nose in the second round and scored with combinations to open a cut over the Briton's right eye in the third. The champion accelerated in the fifth, during which Schwer absorbed a body battering and suffered a nasty cut over his left eye. Referee Mills Lane (USA) briefly examined Schwer's wounds before allowing the bout to continue.

Although Ruelas' combinations occasionally knocked Schwer off-balance, there was nothing close to a knockdown. The cuts were Schwer's biggest problem, and after both the sixth and seventh rounds, Dr. Flip Homansky visited the challenger's corner.

Sensing the end, Schwer, 26-2 (21), opened the eighth firing hooks and uppercuts with both hands. Ruelas, 43-1 (34), answered with big rights of his own, but Schwer's work was enough to carry the round. However, there would be no miracle comeback; Homansky told Lane to call a halt before the start of the ninth.

Schwer did not attend the postfight press conference, opting instead to head directly to Valley Hospital, where he was stitched up.

After eight rounds, Ruelas was ahead on all three cards. Mike Glienna (USA) and Dave Parris (England) both had it 77-75, while Bill Graham (USA) scored 79-73.

"I really thought they would stop the fight much earlier," said Ruelas. "After the doctors didn't stop it, I tried to stop it on my own. I did better on the outside, and I thought, little by little, I was wearing him down.

"I'll be rooting for Oscar De La Hoya against John-John Molina on February 18. Ruelas-De La Hoya is the fight everybody wants to see."

Promoter: Top Rank

(1-28-95)

Jack Welsh

Gabe Ruelas KO 2 Freddie Liberatore

Las Vegas, Nevada: Working a much shorter shift than his brother, Ruelas made his first defense of the WBC super featherweight title, stopping Liberatore after two rounds at the MGM Grand Garden.

The 24-year-old Ruelas, 129½, Sylmar, California, never allowed the plucky Liberatore, 129½, Bayside, New York, to get untracked. He staggered the 5'5" challenger with a left hook only seven seconds after the opening bell and dropped him with another hook 20 seconds into the fight. Liberatore, 27, amazed the crowd of 5,193 by surviving the first three minutes, during which he was rocked with several heavy combinations. He returned to his corner with swelling under his right eye.

Ruelas played it cool in the second, punishing Liberatore with jabs and uppercuts. The wild-punching challenger tried to get inside but was unable to reach Ruelas' jaw and was outpunched four to one in the exchanges. Late in the round, Liberatore suffered a dangerous cut over his left eye, and before the start of the third, Dr. Flip Homansky told referee Mitch Halpern (USA) to call a halt.

"I was expecting a tougher fight than this one turned out to be," said Ruelas, 40-2 (22). "I have always said nobody in boxing has better uppercuts than the Ruelas brothers, and I think we proved that tonight. Liberatore was willing, but I was too strong for him the minute the bell rang. It was just a matter of time because he wasn't that hard to hit."

"Gabriel fought a real good fight," said trainer Joe Goossen. "It's hard to criticize your guy when he drops his opponent in the first round and finishes the night in the second."

The judges were Angel Luis Guzman (Puerto Rico), Chuck Williams (USA), and Dalby Shirley (USA).

Ruelas earned $250,000; Liberatore $30,000.

Dan Goossen, Ruelas' manager, said he hoped to next match the champion with either WBA junior lightweight titlist Genaro Hernandez or former

Photo by Tom Casino

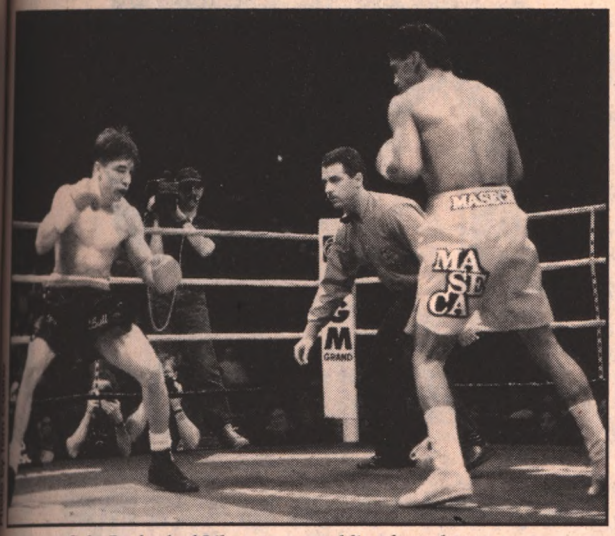
Schwer couldn't cope with Rafael Ruelas' reach

long-reigning 130-pound king Azumah Nelson, who outpointed Ruelas in February 1993.

Promoter: Top Rank

(1-28-95)

Jack Welsh



Gabe Ruelas had Liberatore stumbling from the start

Harold Mestre KO 8 Juvenal Berrio

Cartagena, Colombia: Colombia couldn't help but crown its 18th world champion because both Mestre and Berrio, fighting for the vacant IBF bantamweight title before 4,000 fans at Bernardo Caraballo Coliseum, are native sons. But up until the very end, it was unclear whether the power of Mestre or the boxing skills of Berrio would prove to be the decisive factor.

The Colombians battled for the title vacated by long-reigning former champion Orlando Canizales, who unsuccessfully challenged for the WBA junior featherweight title in January.

After seven rounds of give and take, Mestre, 118, dropped his rival late in the eighth with a right to the head and a left to the chin. Berrio, 118, went down as much from exhaustion as the effect of the last two punches. When the 26-year-old number-one challenger rose, he told referee Francisco Hernandez (Colombia) he'd had enough and trudged disconsolately back to his handlers. The time of the stoppage was the 2:43 mark.

After seven rounds, all three judges, Luis Estrada, Roque Garcia, and Oriel Aguilera, had Mestre ahead by 67-66. Like the fighters and the referee, the judges are from Colombia.

Mestre, who had been ranked second, was the aggressor from the start. Berrio, 25-4-1 (12), troubled him early with movement and speed of hand. He was also somewhat successful at occasionally switching to southpaw. But the 25-year-old Mestre, 20-2 (17), kept landing bombs until Berrio could take no more.

Mestre joins IBF junior bantamweight champion Harold Grey as Colombia's only reigning world titlists. As 118-pound champion, he follows in the footsteps of another Colombian, Jorge Eliecer Julio, who held the WBA belt a couple of years ago. If Julio can still make bantamweight, he might surface as Mestre's first challenger. However, Mestre is more likely to make his initial defense against either Mexico's Cuauhtemoc "Famosito" Gomez or Texas contender Sergio Reyes. Promoters said a rematch with Berrio is also a possibility for the summer.

(1-21-95)

Bruce Williams

Yuri Arbachakov W 12 Oscar Arciniega

Sapporo, Japan: Despite struggling against the effects of the flu, Japan-based Russian Arbachakov was aggressive throughout in winning a unanimous decision over Mexico's Arciniega at Tsukisappu Green Dome. It was the champion's sixth defense of the WBC flyweight title.

The 28-year-old Arbachakov, 111¼, landed his patented straight right from start to finish, but failed to score a knockdown. The game Arciniega, 110½, who is two inches taller than the titlist, moved well and scored with one-twos to the face. But Arbachakov maintained consistent pressure, pinning the Mexican to the ropes in the third and forcing him into a defensive mode in the eighth. The 24-year-old Arciniega, 19-6-1 (14), rallied in the ninth, chasing Arbachakov, 20-0 (15), across the ring. But the champion regained command in the 10th and went on to capture the last three rounds. It wasn't a particularly impressive performance for Arbachakov, whose judgment of distance wasn't as sharp as usual.

Jerry Roth (USA) and David Chung (South Korea) both scored 116-112, and Bruce McTavish (New Zealand) 116-113. The referee was Dr. James Jen Kin (USA).

Negotiations have reportedly begun between Mack Kanehira, who represents Arbachakov, and Rafael Mendoza, the agent for WBC-IBF junior flyweight champion Chiquita Gonzalez. Should the showdown materialize, it will likely happen either in Las Vegas or Tokyo.

Promoter: Kyoei Promotions

(1-30-95)

Joe Koizumi

Henry Maske W 12 Egerton Marcus

Frankfurt, Germany: In a rematch of the 1988 Olympic middleweight gold medal bout, IBF light heavyweight champion Maske retained the title for the sixth time, again outpointing Canadian powerpuncher Marcus before some 10,000 fans at Westfalenhalle.

Exercising a rapier-like southpaw jab, Maske, 174½, Frankfurt, kept Marcus, 173¾, Toronto via Georgetown, Guyana, at long range and wisely tied him up whenever the muscular challenger attempted to slide inside. Shorter by several inches, Marcus could not compete from a distance and became frustrated by his inability to crowd Maske. He tired noticeably from the eighth round on and gave up the fight well before the final bell.

The decision was unanimous. Enzo Scala (Italy) and Walter Cagliari (Italy) both scored 118-110, and Torben Hansen (Denmark) 118-111. THE RING saw it 119-109.

Marcus, 14-1 (10), began sprightly but had great difficulty penetrating Maske's defense, save for a solid straight right in round two. In the third, Maske, 26-0 (12), timed his punches well and landed a beautiful jab-straight left combination just before the bell. The challenger's best fighting was done in the fourth, during which he threw some strong bodyshots and connected with a jarring right while Maske was under pressure in his own corner.

The bout turned irreversibly in the fifth, with Maske's jab becoming the difference. At the close of the seventh, the champion landed a firm left and Marcus went down for a count of two. His manager, Lou Duva, bitterly complained that Maske had leaned on Marcus and pushed him to the canvas, but referee Chris Wollesen (USA) correctly ruled a knockdown.

Marcus merely went through the motions over the last five rounds, and Maske never threatened to stop him.

Bob Arum, who promotes James Toney, is hoping to secure his fighter a try at Maske in the spring.

(2-11-95)

Brian Doogan ■

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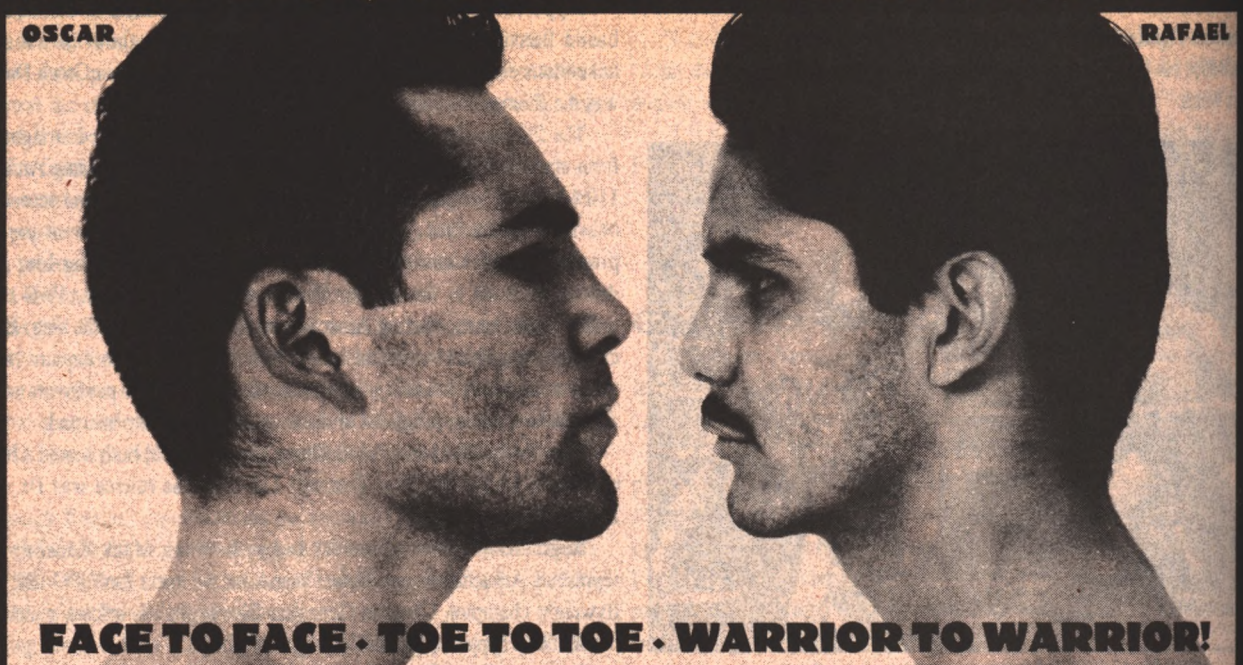

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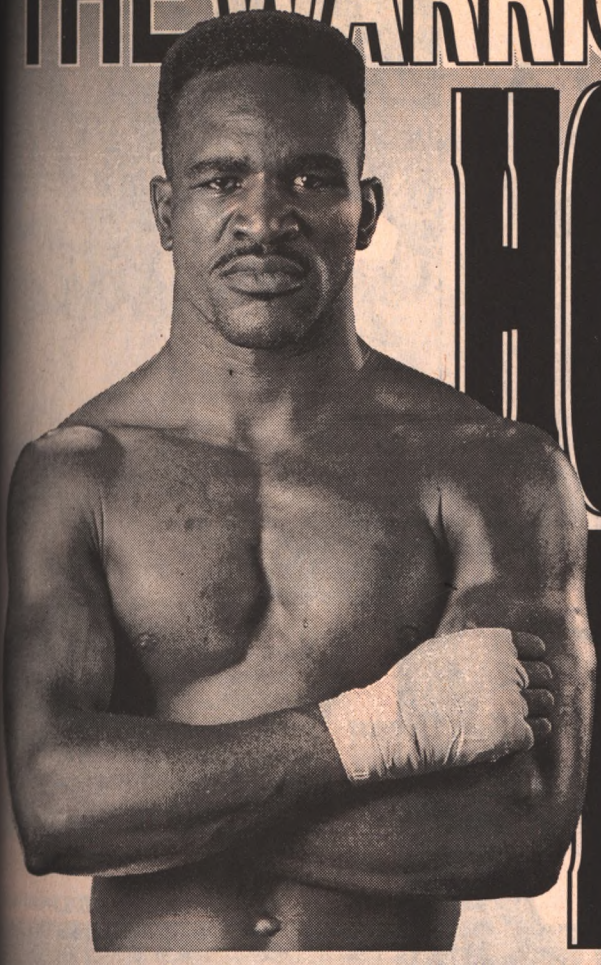

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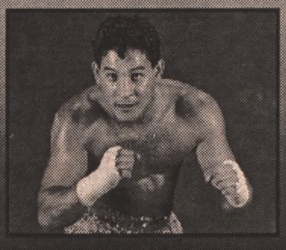

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Grammy award-winning singer Thelm Houston hits the speedbag almost a well as she hits the high notes. Wonde if daughter Whitney works her corner.

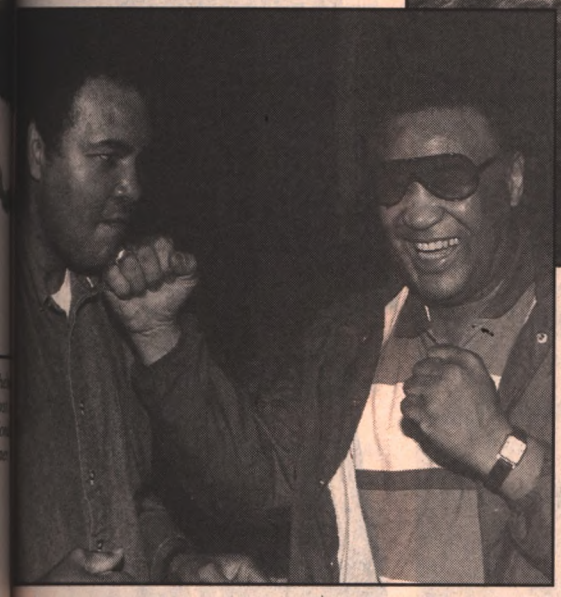
Photo by Dave Jones

Cruiserweight Uriah Grant listens in as legendary former lightweight champion Beau Jack addresses the press in Miami. Jack turns 74 on April 1.

Don King's got a point: Because the WBA stripped George Foreman, either Tony Tucker (left) or Bruce Seldon (right) will win a portion of the heavyweight title.

...rge Foreman's comeback has made ...er fighters yearn for the ring. ...ammad Ali and Jimmy Ellis met ...rly 24 years ago, but come on, guys, ...least Big George is under 50!

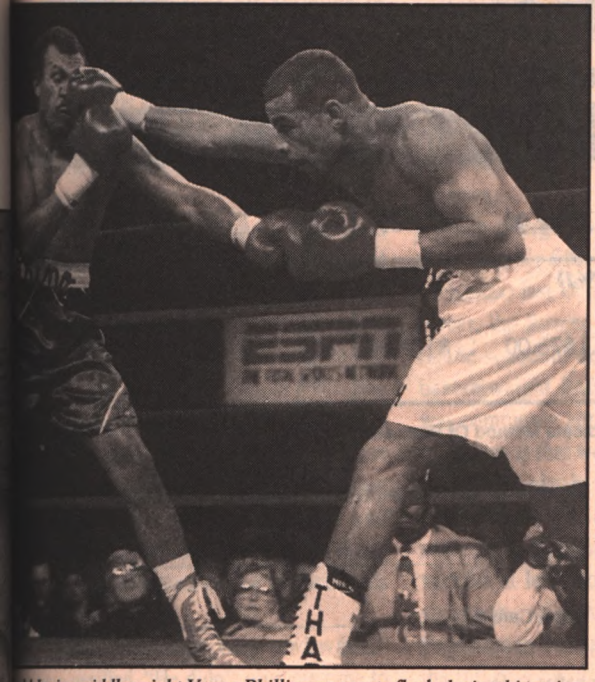
Photo by Jay Lash



Some members of the media will do anything to get an interview. Seems Julio Cesar Chavez is doing his best to keep this overdressed broadcaster afloat.

...oto by Ray Bailey

NOSTALGIA CORNER



...ch! Junior middleweight Verno Phillips connects flush during his points ...ory over Santos Cardona in Bushkill, Pennsylvania. The rematch wasn't ...exciting as the original, but it was still an entertaining scrap.

Triple-crown champion Henry Armstrong sucks in some oxygen before a 1955 revival meeting in Los Angeles. You'll have to supply your own explanation.

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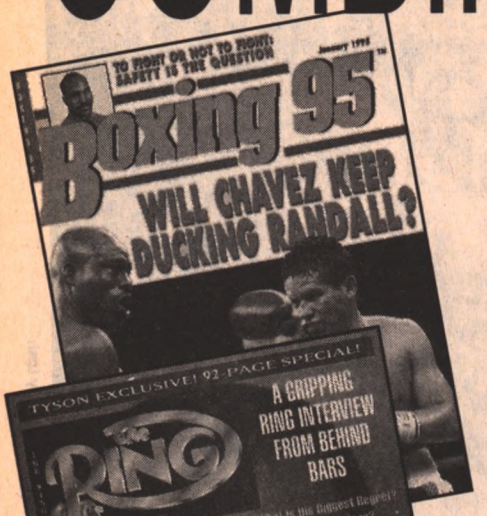

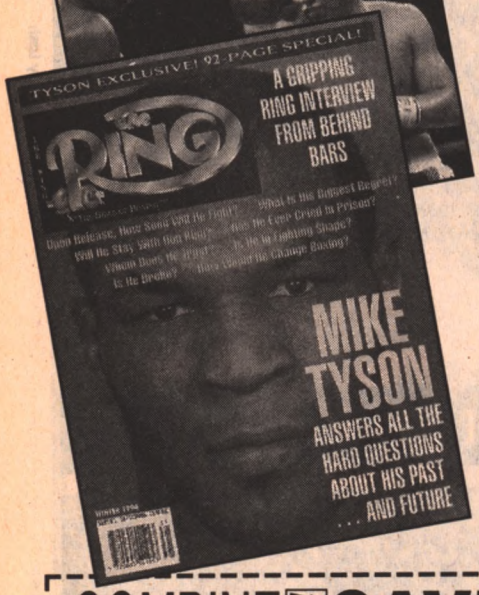

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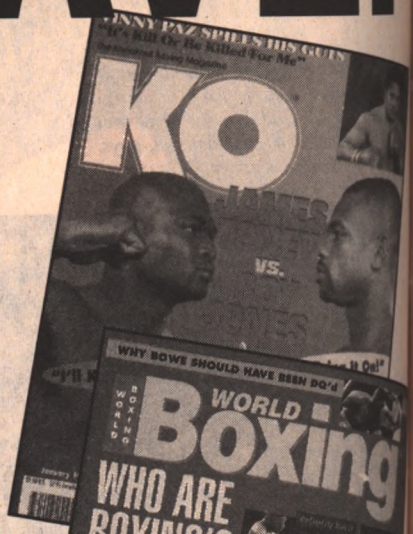

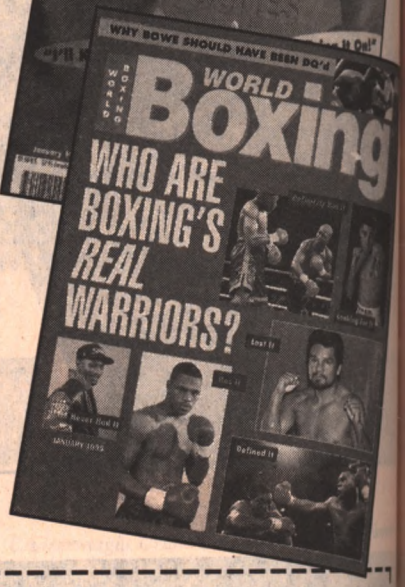

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Steve Robinson

(Continued from page 21)

preference for the riches rather than fame that ring glory inevitably brings. Nevertheless, the Briton was instantly embraced by the Principality's fervent fight followers. Live audiences at his adopted homestead, the Cardiff Ice Rink, regularly exceed 3,000, and with very favorable network TV ratings to match, there is clearly nothing bland about boxing's Cinderella Man, at least once he steps inside the ropes.

True, he may lack the artistry of all-time Welsh featherweight greats Jim Driscoll and Howard Winstone, or the naked power of countrymen Jimmy Wilde and Colin Jones. However, the 5'7" bruiser compensates with a pair of shoulders that would shame most welterweights, almost Herculean natural strength, and an insatiable appetite for the gymnasium.

While the WBO title may be perceived as little more than a cardboard crown in the USA, he has already managed six defenses within a 19-month span. And even though four of these defenses have come against fellow Britons, the quality of his conquests is beyond reproach.

In July 1993, he kicked off his reign in impressive style with an eight-round countout of rugged British champion Sean Murphy. But it was for his triumphs against a trio of heavily fancied fighters, Colin McMillan, Paul Hodkinson, and Duke McKenzie, that he drew most acclaim.

Despite 13 months in the wilderness recuperating from the shoulder injury that had forced him to surrender the WBO featherweight title to Palacio in September 1992, McMillan was still 3-1 to regain the crown when the duo met in October '93. But both the bookmakers and McMillan took a belting. After matching the master boxer for smarts during the initial stages, Robinson capitalized on his superior strength and ruggedness to put the Londoner to flight down the stretch. The wide unanimous verdict in his favor was a formality.

"I found McMillan very awkward," Robinson recalled. "He didn't give me time to work, but I don't think he came to fight. He was running all the time."

Victory saw him installed at number eight in THE RING's featherweight ratings. Nevertheless, a postfight physical confirming a recurrence of McMillan's shoulder injury removed much of the gloss from Robinson's moment of glory. However, any remaining misgivings surely subsided five months later, when Hodkinson had to be rescued 80 seconds before the final bell following a dozen rounds of utter mayhem.

Less than two years previous, as Robinson toiled in a Cardiff storeroom, the Liverpudlian, then WBC champion, was widely perceived as the premier 126-pounder in the world. And despite conceding the crown to hammer-fisted Mexican Goyo Vargas in April '93, he remained heavily favored to dethrone the Welsh upstart. Yet after his shock-proof jaw survived an early shelling, the champion's fabled conditioning again saw him prevail in Britain's Fight of the Year. Not surprisingly, it is this performance that Robinson selects as his finest to date.

"That was a very high-paced fight, and there were a heck of a lot of punches thrown," he said. "Paul was very tough, and he stung me a few times to the body. However, unlike McMillan, he suited my style. I'm a come-forward type of fighter myself, and because I didn't have to look for him, I was able to stop him in his tracks. I should really have stopped him earlier. I had him hurt in almost every round."

Once again the critics and cynics disguised their admiration. They claimed the volume of clean, unanswered shots Hoko endured before finally crumbling to the canvas served as proof that Robinson lacked the necessary firepower to clean up the division.

The charge could no longer be leveled following his fifth defense, a showdown with McKenzie last October. In a 12-year, 40-fight career, the former world champion's solitary inside-schedule defeat, a first-round loss to bantamweight Rafael Del Valle in May '92, was commonly attributed to his struggles with the scales at that weight.

In the ninth round, when the finely balanced contest appeared destined for the scorecards, Robinson sunk the shortest, most spiteful of left hooks deep into the pit of the stomach. Seemingly punctured, the Englishman collapsed to the canvas to take the full count with only 10 seconds remaining in the session.

Although this was only the 10th stoppage

(Continued on page 73)

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Steve Robinson

(Continued from page 71)

victory in the Welsh warrior's rather modest 28-9-1 record, he is now naturally anxious to pitch his talent against all comers. However, as his serious involvement in the sport dates less than six years, and he turned 26 only last December, his handlers are in no mood to hurry him.

"For the time being, Steve will fight every fight in Wales," insisted Gardiner. Added Rush, "Steve has to realize he started in the pro game with very little experience. He thinks he can beat everybody in the world right now. I'm confident that he can handle most of them."

In the fourth defense of the crown, a comfortable points victory over Freddy Cruz in May '94, Robinson finally met an opponent from outside of U.K. Yet the fighter is desperate to expand his fan club across the Atlantic and beyond, and actively welcomes an opportunity to fight either WBC champion Alejandro Gonzalez or IBF counterpart Tom Johnson for a more respected championship.

But, while both Gonzalez and Johnson hold more concrete claims to world supremacy, Robinson is equally aware that neither has come close to generating the revenues he commands. Therefore, he is confident of securing home advantage for an open-air showdown against either in the summer of '95.

Whatever lies ahead for boxing's best-paid featherweight, it's doubtful the fight game's colorful lore will ever enjoy a more romantic lilt than the tale of Steve Robinson. What a difference one phone call can make. ■

Glynn Evans is a freelance boxing journalist based in Cardiff, Wales. He frequently contributes to Britain's Boxing News.

Kostya Tszyu

(Continued from page 23)

with WBC lightweight champion Miguel Angel Gonzalez. In the spring, Puerto Rico's Angel Hernandez, whose only previous loss had come against Chavez, bowed out in seven rounds, and in August, the IBF's second-rated Pedro Sanchez was gone in five.

The moment of truth arrived on Super Bowl eve at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas. Tszyu had little trouble clearing the final hurdle to fulfilling Mordey's prophecy, scoring a one-sided six-round kayo of Jake Rodriguez to win the IBF 140-pound crown.

It wouldn't be a stretch to say Tszyu, 139, Sydney, Australia, controlled the fight from the opening bell. He dropped Rodriguez, 139½, Central Islip, New York, with a sweeping right 14 seconds into the first round. The stunned champion got up, but his legs buckled twice more. Tszyu, 14-0 (11), pulled back a bit in rounds two, three, and four, then turned up the heat in the fifth and blasted the champion in the sixth. He dropped the southpaw four times in that frame before referee Richard Steele finally stopped the bout at the 1:50 mark. Although a paralyzing right is Tszyu's best punch, Rodriguez, 26-3-2 (7), was felled by left hooks as well.

It was Rodriguez' third defense. The judges were Bernie Cormier (Canada), Don O'Neill (USA), and Chuck Giampa (USA).

"I was so happy to win the title in Las Vegas, the boxing capital of the world," Tszyu said. "It is extra-special because my father was here to see it. Now I just want to go back to my family in Australia and show off the championship belt to my fans. This is what I've always dreamed of."

Fans and the media usually make sure to jump on an up-and-coming fighter's bandwagon after his first big win. But the Tszyu phenomenon has been different. Most fans didn't even know what he looked like until last year. To boxing insiders who couldn't correctly pronounce his name (for the record, it's "zoo"), he had simply been "the Russian." Which is pretty impressive when you consider that two other Russian fighters, Yuri Arbachakov (WBC flyweight) and Nazarov Olzubek (WBA lightweight) were already world champions.

While Tszyu may have taken the short road to the title, Acri points out there were no short-cuts. Still, some may wonder if a champion with just 14 pro fights might still be a bit green. Trainer Harold Knight, who works with Lennox Lewis, isn't one of them.

"When I saw Tszyu come through and beat Lopez in just his 11th pro fight, I knew he was going to be a world champion," said

(Continued on page 76)

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Kostya Tszyu

(Continued from page 73)

Knight, a former world-rated junior lightweight. "Tszyu is physically strong and accurate with his punches. Lopez is tough. And Tszyu imposed his will down the stretch in that fight even though you could see he was tired at the end. But he was very determined. I'm glad I'm retired."

But—and if not a butt, there's always a but in boxing—no one could be that good, right? Bramble says he spotted flaws in Tszyu while he was losing most of the 10 rounds of their fight. "To beat Tszyu, you'll have to box and move," he said. "Try and frustrate him. When Kostya backs up, he has a hard time. He has to be going forward to be effective."

Mike Marley, a publicist for Don King, agrees: "Tszyu was tearing people up in the gym before his fight with Steve Larrimore in January 1993. But one day some local journeyman went in and gave him a boxing lesson. Maybe Tszyu was having a bad day, who knows.

"I'm skeptical of these perpetual motion guys. Tszyu's one of the most exciting fighters in the world today, but he's one-dimensional. Are there a lot of guys in the world who can beat him? No. But there is a lot of talent between 130 and 147 pounds. One of them could be the Tszyu-keeper."

While the King crony offers a pointed opinion, supporters of "The Baby-Faced Assassin" counter with facts. Outside of the middle rounds of the Lopez fight, Tszyu has been in control of every one of his bouts. He has scored five first-round kayos. LaPorte, Bramble, Hernandez, Sanchez, and Rodriguez were all knocked down or shaken in the first round. And in the 12-month period from January 1994 to January '95, Tszyu dominated and kayoed three top-10 junior welterweights and outbrawled a fourth.

Even though he's seen flaws in Tszyu, Bramble respects the Russian and predicts mostly uphill battles for any of the newly crowned IBF champion's foes—and even the other 140-pound champions.

"Chavez is ready to go," Bramble said. "I definitely think Kostya could take Chavez. Once those Mexican fighters lose it, that's it. Chavez gets hit too much. And Frankie Randall opens up when he starts to trade. Chavez hit him a lot. Kostya's accurate, and he's faster than Chavez, too. Hey, at the time I fought him, I thought Tszyu was good enough to beat Charles Murray." (When Bramble faced Tszyu, Murray was the reigning IBF champion.)

"He's a bad dude," said WBC light heavyweight champion Mike McCallum, who watched Tszyu's destruction of Rodriguez at ringside. "He doesn't fight like those Eastern Europeans. He fights like over here."

"He's not a headhunter," added Bramble. "He's a great bodypuncher, believe me. His punches are short and fierce. I did sets of situps twice a day before our fight. That saved me. I take pride in my defensive ability, and my wrists were sore as hell after the fight from blocking his punches. That had never happened before."

USA Network analyst Sean O'Grady admits Tszyu's physical skills are impressive, but the former WBA lightweight champion is more appreciative of the Russian's mental attitude.

"His power comes from within," O'Grady

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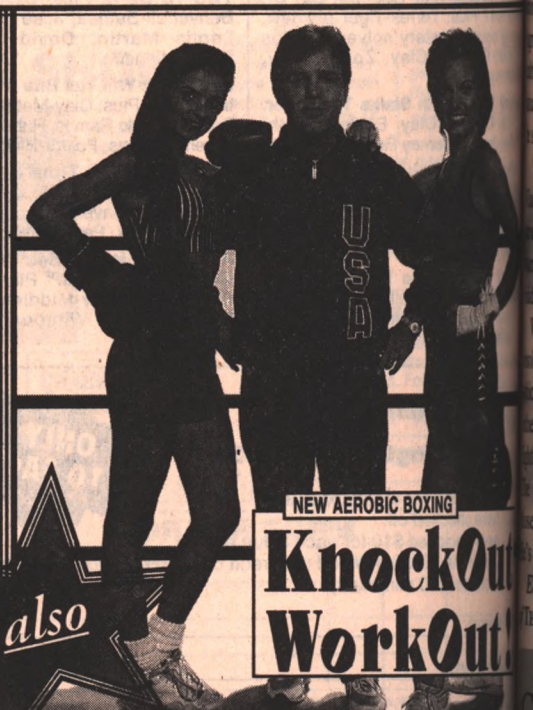

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said. "He's focused, dedicated, and he knows the direction he wants to go." O'Grady spoke with Tszyu at length before the Lopez fight and came away convinced Tszyu had the mental stability and maturity to become one of the sport's best. Balance is one of the most important commodities to have in the ring, said O'Grady, but it's equally important in a fighter's personal life. It appears Tszyu has it in both.

When Tszyu, who moved to Australia with then-girlfriend Natasha in January 1992 (they are now married, and in October became the parents of a baby boy), all he asked for was an apartment with a double-bed and a microwave. Tszyu is unimpressed with his celebrity status, shunning the nightlife and preferring instead to stay home with his family. The Tszyus are looking forward to becoming Australian citizens sometime this spring.

"I'm proud I'm Russian, but I decided to leave," Tszyu said. "Australia is my second home. I'll stay here forever."

Considering his sudden ascension to boxing's upper echelon, the Siberian native's outside distractions are minimal. But this is boxing, and no one leads a charmed life. One potential distraction that can get nasty is a flare-up between the Tszyu camp and promoter Mordey. Tszyu maintains his contract with Mordey has expired, and he's agreed to a multifight deal with an Australian cable television company. The promoter, who usually deals with a rival cable company, says he still has the fighter under contract.

"We don't want this to get ugly," said Vlad Warton, Tszyu's manager. "We're quite sure we're within our legal rights. We just want to give Kostya's fights to the highest bidder. If that's Bill, that's fine."

Warton is confident the issue will be resolved before Tszyu makes his first defense, which will probably be in May or early-June, either in Australia or America. Wherever the fight is held, make sure you get there early. The powerpunching Tszyu isn't just one of those rare can't-miss prospects who makes it. He's a champion who seldom misses. ■

Ed Maloney is a former associate editor of THE RING.

George Foreman

(Continued from page 26)

ever a moment where you came ever so close to calling it a career?

GF: There was one point where I really was going to ... I fought Tommy Morrison. I outpointed him, then, after a couple of rounds, he had made it to the last round. I hurt him and he lay on me and I said, "Well, he's only got a few more minutes, he's young and he'll come back," and I didn't finish him. And they gave the decision to Tommy Morrison. I was through, that was it. But my wife jumped on me. She said, "That's not it. You gotta stop playing with these young guys. You're worrying about what their parents are gonna say, what their families are gonna say, you don't want to hit 'em with more punches when you got 'em. You gotta go out there and get a knockout, because if you're gonna play with those guys, quit."

THE RING: Without that speech from your wife, you would have retired?

GF: I would've packed it in. But she told me not to go out there and play with 'em. And I went out back there, it was hard—jab, jab, jab. That's not easy to do with the young kids out there. Then finally I reached over the side of Michael Moorer. I had weakened him; that's all you can do with a young kid like that. Then crack him and knock him out. I didn't want to do that, but I just had to. It was either that or the alimony payments *(laughs)*.

THE RING: If you fight once a year, why can't you fight until you're 50?

GF: I could. I could fight as long as I want to. People know that now. As a matter of fact, I get better each year. I'm better than I was five years ago. But boxing takes up too much time. I've got other things to do.

THE RING: Is there anything in your life that gives you the satisfaction of scoring a win in a big fight?

GF: I'm a preacher, I like preaching. Get me in front of an audience ...

THE RING: Is it a similar feeling to when you're in the ring?

GF: It's not to be compared. Boxing is something else. You're not gonna see me throwing up my hands and jumping and running around for boxing. But I will do that if I feel good from preaching.

THE RING: In fact, when you knocked out Moorer to realize your dream, your reaction was surprisingly subdued. All you

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George Foreman

(Continued from page 77)

did was kneel down in a corner and say a prayer.

GF: You set your goals, but like any blue-collar guy carrying a lunch bucket, the whistle blows and you go home. Then on Friday, the eagle flies and you're a lot more happy than you were on Wednesday.

THE RING: How do you respond to the charge that by fighting on at 46, you're giving false hope to other former fighters who want to reap the rewards you've enjoyed? Where you're able to do it in a physical sense, they might hurt themselves.

GF: They have *not* been able to do it, but one day, if these guys don't get discouraged and keep on trying, there's gonna be a 60-year-old heavyweight champion of the world.

THE RING: You don't think it can be dangerous for some of these fighters to come back?

GF: If we go into the 21st century with, "You're old ... you're old," why even have a future? Why go to a doctor to check up? Why even check up yourself if you're considered dead just because you're 50 years old? We're moving into another century. The athletes are gonna be powerful, they're gonna be productive. I'm just a sampling of what's coming up. Man, I'm telling ya, one day you're gonna see guys dunking the basketball, and the rookie of the year saying, "Let me in, coach." And he'll be 59 years old.

THE RING: Can you dunk?

GF: (*laughs)* If I could jump, I could dunk.

THE RING: Obviously you received a lot of letters and tributes and compliments after you won the title. Does one stand out as particularly special or meaningful?

GF: The tribute most meaningful was from Ali. I know it was from the gut. He congratulated me and said, "You had the guts to do it." And he signed it, "Love, Muhammad." That meant a lot because this guy knows about guts. Nothing has topped that. My wife put that in a frame and we hung it up. There were also so many letters I received that went, "George, it was the sixth round and I just couldn't take it. I went and got on my knees and prayed, 'Dear God, please, please ...'" I got so many letters like that. I wrote them back and I said, "I know ... I know ..." *(laughs)*. I know a lot of prayers were answered.

THE RING: A year from now, if everything you want is realized, will you still be heavyweight champion of the world, or will you be watching your kids grow up in Houston?

GF: This'll probably be the final year for me to box. Believe me, I'm a preacher. I *like* being a preacher. And I like the community in the religious world. I call this the front door, but there's a back door that's just as splendid. I still miss sitting around having Bible discussions. I'd like to fill my life with it a little bit more. I'd do that now, but I tend to consume myself with it.

THE RING: Our readers are the hard-core fans, the ones who have followed you since the Olympics in 1968 in Mexico City. They saw all your comeback fights, not just Michael Moorer, but Guido Trane and Bobby Crabtree, too. Take this opportunity to address them any way you'd like.

GF: The message is that boxing is better off now. For the first time, some justice was done. I was given a chance to fight for the title, and you were the ones who said 20 years ago, "Don't worry, George, you'll get another chance." I'm certain you didn't know it would take so long. You supported me. Without the hard-core boxing fans, not the ones I've attracted with all the fun and games, but the fans who went into the little hitching posts in Springfield, Missouri, and the little fight clubs all over New York ... You made this. This is your victory. Had you not been there, this would not have happened. ■

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New Faces

(Continued from page 58)

running Byrd's career come often, but he resisted all of them. Byrd says when he wins world title, it will be with his father in his corner.

"In the gym, Chris is not my son; he's just like the rest of them," said Joe Byrd, who compiled a record of 86-10 as a professional heavyweight. "This is a business. I'm hard on Chris. If you walked in the gym, you wouldn't be able to tell which one was my son. But the relationship picks right up when he comes over the house after training."

After a standout amateur career during which he compiled a record of 254-23 and captured the silver medal in Barcelona, Byrd headed directly to the refrigerator. His first few pro bouts were at cruiserweight. There, once reaching 200 pounds, he decided to move all the way up.

Byrd's first five fights were in Flint, but number six was at The Palace of Auburn Hills, in front of a large crowd that included James Toney, who knows something about eating yourself up to heavyweight. Byrd faced his toughest opponent to date in Waxxer Fikes, a highly regarded Detroit-area fighter who was 7-1-1. According to Joe Byrd, many thought Byrd might not be ready.

Not ready? Byrd showcased his skills and left the crowd breathless. After a slow first round, he dazzled Fikes with his hand speed, winning each stanza easily and using his opponent's head for target practice. When he wasn't landing punches, Byrd bent and twisted away from incoming blows, which frustrated Fikes and set him up for further punishment.

The bout ended at 2:49 of the fourth round with an utterly befuddled Fikes absorbing hard shots to the head. Although he's scored knockouts in all but two of his fights, Byrd is not a heavy puncher. At least not yet. Such is the price paid for moving up four divisions.

"His power's coming on, but he's never going to stop anyone with one punch," Joe Byrd said. "His speed's so good, it makes up for it. He's got his own style, and I don't want to change it."

As for the quality of Byrd's opposition, a lack of connections at the pro level is making it difficult to secure the right fights. Nevertheless, Byrd has reached the stage

where he's ready for 10-rounders and faded veteran types like Jesse Ferguson. So far, the only opponent he's turned down is his father, who is always available as a sparring partner.

"Chris says, 'Well, Dad, I don't want to hurt you,'" Joe Byrd recalls with a chuckle. "Seriously, I'm not worried about him fighting better guys. I see a different Chris in 10-rounders. He reminds me of Ali. I'm not saying he's going to be Ali, but he has that kind of hand speed. The only way to catch Chris is if he starts aging fast. And even as he gets older, he's only getting faster."

"I know it's my time," Byrd said. "Without Mike Tyson, the heavyweights have no flash, and they need a new hero. I'm a performer. This is the year everybody should know who I am."

Even if no one recognizes him in those extra-large trunks. ■

Carlos Monzon

(Continued from page 51)

career never faltered. Despite his lifestyle, he ruled the middleweight domain until retiring, still champion, in 1977. By then he'd reigned longer than any other 160-pound titlist in history and had compiled a division-record 14 successful defenses. Most of his challengers—Bennie Briscoe (W 15), Rodrigo Valdes (W 15, W 15), Jean-Claude Bouttier (KO 13, W 15), Tony Mundine (KO 7), Benny Moyer (KO 5), Gratien Tonna (KO 5), Napoles (KO 7), Griffith, and Licata—were top-notch fighters.

Both of the Valdes fights were close, raising affairs, and for the first time Monzon started to show signs of wear. He was forced to come off the floor to win the second Valdes bout, and wisely decided to retire while still on top. He left a remarkable record of 89-3-8 (1) with 1 no-contest, going undefeated in his last 81 bouts.

At the time of his retirement, Monzon seemed set for life. His holdings included a 1,750-acre ranch called *Esperanza* (The Hope), eight apartments in Buenos Aries and four more in Santa Fe. But like so many fighters, he never really found his niche outside the ring. He tried a variety of business enterprises, but met with little success, drifting from one ill-conceived venture to another. He began drinking heavily, dabbled in cocaine, and began hanging out with unsavory characters.

In 1979, Monzon met Muniz at Buenos Aries' Ezeina Airport while waiting for a flight to France. The former boxer was smitten by the beautiful young dancer, and they soon embarked on stormy love affair that ended tragically in 1988. Before her death, Muniz bore Monzon a son, Maximiliano, who was asleep in the house the night his mother was killed.

Overnight, Monzon became the O.J. Simpson of Argentina, his sensational murder trial front-page news. Though by far the most serious incident, it was not Monzon's first brush with the law. His legendary temper had landed him in the slammer numerous times during the early part of his boxing career.

"You know how it is," said Brusa, who regularly bailed the young fighter out of jail. "You go to a bar. Someone insults you. You have to defend your honor ..."

Monzon was also charged with attacking a photographer at a Christmas party in 1967, and incarcerated for 28 days in 1981 for possessing an illegal gun in his home.

A further example of his tempestuous lifestyle came in '73, when his wife, Beatriz, pumped two bullets into the fighter during a domestic dispute. Luckily for Monzon, no vital organs were damaged, though one slug, lodged in his left shoulder, remained there the rest of his life. Ironically, during Monzon's trial, Beatriz was one of the few people from his past who came forth and stood by him. Gimenez had long since departed.

Although Monzon claimed Muniz' death was an accident, the coroner's report indicated the victim had been choked to the point of unconsciousness prior to falling to her death. This, and Monzon's history of violence, was enough to convince a three-judge panel to find him guilty. At the time of his death, he was on the verge of obtaining parole.

Despite his disgrace, Monzon retained a hold on the public. Actor and part-time pro boxer Mickey Rourke indicated he was interested in making a film of the boxer's life. Fellow inmate Mike Tyson said he planned to visit Monzon after his own release. And in the provinces, especially in and around Santa Fe, Monzon remained a celebrity till the very end.

Approximately 15 minutes before he died, the car carrying Monzon and his traveling companions pulled into a gas station for a fill-up. The famous boxer was recognized by the attendant, and signed one final autograph before speeding off to his death. ■

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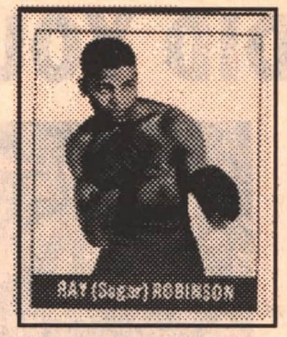

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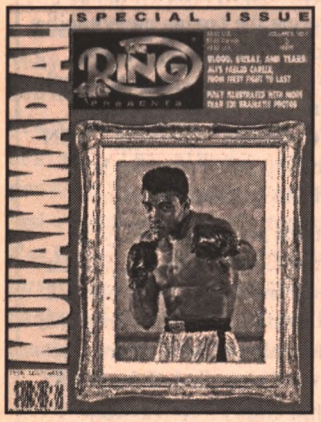

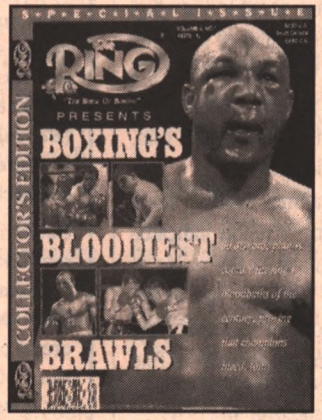

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FISKE ON FIGHTS

By Jack Fiske

Eddie Futch was pleased.

"It's long overdue," the veteran trainer said of my intention to do a piece on Holman Williams and Charley Burley, two of the best middleweights of the '30s and '40s who were too good for their own good. They were black and avoided by the more publicized and connected fighters who couldn't bear a loss on their records to such unheralded performers.

Futch, 82, knew Williams intimately, worked his corner as a youth in Detroit, where they both fought out of the Brewster Boxing Club, and also accompanied him on some of his frequent forays into the hinterlands. Futch was with Williams for one of his seven fights with Burley and said of the 1942 match in Cincinnati, "Although Burley won it, I thoroughly enjoyed it, being able to watch two of the best boxers in the business."

Burley has attracted some attention in the years since his death, but Williams' overall record is as good as the Pittsburgh middleweight. Burley fought and licked light heavys and a few heavys—and so did Williams.

Born in Pensacola, Florida, in 1912, Williams moved as a boy to Detroit and later headquartered in Chicago. He fought from 1932 through 1948, compiling a record of 144-31-11 (34) with 1 no-contest. Only three times did he fail to last the distance (vs. Burley, Archie Moore, and Jose Basora, who drew with Sugar Ray Robinson). As talented as Williams was, another largely ignored fighter, Puerto Rico's Cocoa Kid, had his number; in their 11 fights, the Kid won eight, lost only one, and twice drew.

Born in 1917, Burley campaigned from 1937 to 1950, compiling a mark of 73-12-2 (43) with 1 no-contest. He was never stopped. He and Williams each won three of their seven bouts, with one no-contest. Neither he nor Williams ever landed a world title fight.

Futch on Williams: "I'd watch him in the gym, and I'd rather watch him shadowbox than watch the others in a fight. In 1936, I noticed he was watching me. I couldn't imagine why. A year later he came to me and said he wanted me to work with him in a bout in Hazel Park in Detroit. I asked him why. 'Because you know everything about boxing,' he said. "I laid out a plan, and he executed it perfectly. Here was a guy who knew everything about boxing and he had asked *me*!

"Williams was a very clever boxer; he would go after your weaknesses and exploit them. He would vary his jabs, sometimes like a slap, and other times his knuckles would be [facing] down. Sometimes the jab would start for the body against a strong guy. It would be like an uppercut, like a pole swung upward, and the target would take the force of the blow. He would counterpunch according to the opponent.

"I remember him beating Jake LaMotta, but he was unjustly deprived of the decision in Detroit. After the fight, Jake left the ring with a towel over his face so the fans couldn't see how badly he was chopped up."

In a 1942 bout in Minneapolis, Burley, weighing an announced 155, knocked out heavyweight Jay Turner, 218, in six rounds. Burley later revealed he was actually 152, but the ring announcer had added a couple of pounds to make it look better. Turner later told Futch that after taking the left hook that had felled him, he woke up in the dressing room without remembering a thing.

Burley drew with top middleweight contender Georgie Abrams, took two of three from hometown rival Fritzie Zivic, beat future world champions Archie Moore and Billy Soose, and won and drew with Cocoa Kid.

"Burley was a precision puncher," said Futch. "A good boxer, he made you miss by a quarter of an inch, and then he'd hit you with counterpunches. He wouldn't move his feet, had perfect balance, hands down, leading you to throw so he could create an opening. He knew what was coming, and he'd make you pay."

Two black greats, unheralded and virtually unknown. Too good for their own good. ■

WORLDWIDE RATINGS

The ratings of the three major governing bodies recognized by THE RING are supplied by the organizations themselves. They are updated on these pages as soon as they are made available to us. In this issue, the WBA ratings were compiled as of December 1994, and the WBC ratings and IBF ratings were compiled as of January 1995.

HEAVYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Oliver McCall (USA)	C	–	–
George Foreman (USA)	–	C	C
Tony Tucker (USA)	1	1	1
Lennox Lewis (GB)	2	7	6
Lionel Butler (USA)	3	3	12
Bruce Seldon (USA)	4	2	2
Henry Akinwande (GB)	5	9	9
Jorge Luis Gonzalez (CUBA)	6	12	10
Joe Hipp (USA)	7	5	5
Larry Holmes (USA)	8	–	–
Frank Bruno (GB)	9	–	–
Frans Botha (SA)	10	4	4
Michael Moorer (USA)	14	6	3
Alexandre Zolkin (RUS)	11	8	–
Razor Ruddock (CAN)	24	10	–
Buster Mathis (USA)	22	–	7
Corrie Sanders (SA)	16	–	8

CRUISERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Anaclet Wamba (FRA)	C	–	–
Orlin Norris (USA)	–	C	–
Alfred Cole (USA)	–	–	C
Carl Thompson (GB)	1	5	6
Sergei Kobozev (RUS)	2	4	2
Adolpho Washington (USA)	3	3	–
Robert Daniels (USA)	4	7	9
Marcelo Dominguez (ARG)	5	–	–
Alexander Gurov (UKR)	6	–	–
Akim Tafer (FRA)	7	11	7
Dennis Andries (GB)	8	–	–
Mark Randazzo (USA)	9	–	–
Arthur Williams (USA)	10	–	12
Thomas Hearns (USA)	–	1	4
Marcelo Figueroa (ARG)	19	2	–
Ralf Rocchigiani (GER)	–	6	–
Nate Miller (USA)	12	8	3
Norbert Ekassi (CAM)	11	9	5
Richard Mason (USA)	27	10	11
Uriah Grant (USA)	–	–	1
Andre Purlet (GUY)	–	–	8
Saul Montana (MEX)	20	–	10

LT. HEAVYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Mike McCallum (USA)	C	–	–
Virgil Hill (USA)	–	C	–
Henry Maske (GER)	–	–	C
Fabrice Tiozzo (FRA)	1	2	8
Jeff Harding (AUSTRL)	2	–	4
Randall Yonker (USA)	3	–	–
Eddy Smulders (HOLL)	4	5	–
Eric Nicoletta (FRA)	5	3	–
Frank Tate (USA)	6	4	–
Rudy Nix (USA)	7	–	5
Gary Delaney (GB)	8	–	–
Montell Griffin (USA)	9	–	10
Christophe Girard (FRA)	10	–	–
Wang Sup Lee (KOR)	25	1	–
Egerton Marcus (CAN)	–	6	1
Brent Kosolofski (CAN)	–	7	–
Duran Williams (USA)	–	8	2
Drake Thadzi (CAN)	–	9	–
Jose Gomez (BRA)	19	10	–
James Toney (USA)	–	–	3
John Scully (USA)	21	–	6
Charles Williams (USA)	13	–	7
Greg Everett (USA)	–	–	9

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Nigel Benn (GB)	C	–	–
Frank Liles (USA)	–	C	–
Roy Jones (USA)	–	–	C
Gerald McClellan (USA)	1	–	–
Frederic Seiller (FRA)	2	10	5
Graziano Rocchigiani (GER)	3	6	–
Tony Byrd (USA)	4	1	1
Steve Little (USA)	5	4	9
James Toney (USA)	6	–	–
Thulane Malinga (SA)	7	9	–
Cornelius Carr (GB)	8	–	–
Tim Littles (USA)	9	2	3
Carl Jones (USA)	10	–	–
Mauricio Amaral (BRA)	–	3	–
Byun Gin Kang (KOR)	22	5	–
Vinny Pazienza (USA)	–	7	–
Michael Nunn (USA)	12	8	4
Lonnie Bradley (USA)	–	–	2
Darrin Van Horn (USA)	–	–	6
Daren Zenner (USA)	19	–	7
Tony Thornton (USA)	–	–	8
Ray Close (GB)	15	–	10

MIDDLEWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Vacant	C	–	–
Jorge Castro (ARG)	–	C	–
Agostino Cardamone (ITA)	1	4	7
Julian Jackson (USA)	2	–	4
Silvio Branco (ITA)	3	10	–
Quincy Taylor (USA)	4	7	5
Lonnie Bradley (USA)	5	–	–
Joe Lipsey (USA)	6	9	3
Richie Woodhall (GB)	7	–	–
Reggie Johnson (USA)	8	1	8
Neville Brown (GB)	9	–	10
Shinji Takehara (JAP)	10	5	–
Peter Venancio (BRA)	–	2	–
Segundo Mercado (ECU)	–	3	2
Bernard Hopkins (USA)	–	6	1
John David Jackson (USA)	11	8	6
Miguel Viloria (COL)	–	–	9

JR. MIDDLEWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Luis Santana (DR)	C	–	–
Julio Cesar Vasquez (ARG)	–	C	–
Vincent Pettway (USA)	–	–	C
Terry Norris (USA)	1	–	–
Julio Cesar Green (USA)	2	4	1
Laurent Boudouani (FRA)	3	–	–
Bronco McKart (USA)	4	6	–
Simon Brown (USA)	5	8	10
Robert McCracken (GB)	6	–	6
Javier Castillejo (SPA)	7	1	8
Carl Daniels (USA)	8	3	–
Paul Vaden (USA)	9	–	2
Godfrey Nyakana (UGA)	10	–	–
Julian Jackson (USA)	–	2	–
Winky Wright (USA)	12	5	–
Bernard Razzano (FRA)	–	7	–
Paul Vaden (USA)	–	9	–
Darrin Morris (USA)	–	10	9
Gianfranco Rosi (ITA)	15	–	3
Keith Holmes (USA)	–	–	4
Raul Marquez (USA)	22	–	5
Rossman Henry (COL)	–	–	7

WELTERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Pernell Whitaker (USA)	C	–	–
Ike Quartey (GHA)	–	C	–
Felix Trinidad (PR)	–	–	C
Gary Jacobs (GB)	1	2	4
Larry Barnes (USA)	2	–	1
Andrew Murray (GUY)	3	1	2
Wilfredo Rivera (PR)	4	–	3
David Gonzalez (USA)	5	11	7
Buddy McGirt (USA)	6	–	8
Crisanto Espana (VEN)	7	3	–
Lonnie Smith (USA)	8	–	–
Jose Luis Navarro (SPA)	9	–	–
Oba Carr (USA)	10	6	6
Yori Boy Campas (MEX)	–	4	5
Freddy Ladd (USA)	–	5	–
Roger Turner (USA)	27	7	9
Sean Sullivan (NZ)	–	8	–
Andrey Pestryaev (RUS)	17	9	–
Jung Oh Park (KOR)	–	10	–
Derrell Coley (USA)	11	12	10

JR. WELTERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Julio Cesar Chavez (MEX)	C	–	–
Frankie Randall (USA)	–	C	–
Jake Rodriguez (USA)	–	–	C

David Kamau (USA)	1	3	5
Hugo Pineda (COL)	2	4	2
Jan Bergman (SA)	3	6	10
Juan Coggi (ARG)	4	2	–
Giovanni Parisi (ITA)	5	9	3
Darryll Tyson (USA)	6	–	4
Khalid Rahilou (FRA)	7	1	–
Ismael Chaves (ARG)	8	–	–
Meldrick Taylor (USA)	9	–	–
Hiroyuki Sakamoto (JAP)	10	–	–
Won Park (KOR)	23	5	–
George Scott (USA)	–	7	–
Gert Bo Jacobsen (DEN)	18	8	–
Pierre Lorcy (FRA)	–	10	–
Kostya Tszyu (AUSTRL)	–	–	1
Pedro Sanchez (DR)	–	–	6
Pedro Padilla (COL)	–	–	7
Ray Oliveira (USA)	13	–	8
Freddie Ladd (USA)	–	–	9

LIGHTWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Miguel Angel Gonzalez (MEX)	**C**	**–**	**–**
Nazarov Olzubek (JAP)	**–**	**C**	**–**
Rafael Ruelas (USA)	**–**	**–**	**C**
Miguel Julio (COL)	1	1	1
Jean Baptist Mendy (FRA)	2	–	–
Leavander Johnson (USA)	3	2	7
Ramon Marchena (MEX)	4	–	8
Ricardo Silva (ARG)	5	–	–
Marty Jakubowski (USA)	6	–	–
Nicolas Cervera (COL)	7	–	–
Shane Mosley (USA)	8	–	12
Hector Tejeda (ARG)	9	–	–
Steve Johnston (USA)	10	–	11
Fabian Tejeda (ARG)	–	3	–
Adrianus Taroreh (INDO)	24	4	–
Hiroyuki Sakamoto (JAP)	–	5	–
Racheed Lawal (DEN)	17	6	–
Billy Schwer (GB)	–	7	2
Phillip Holiday (SA)	11	8	–
Joey Gamache (USA)	25	9	–
Dino Canoy (PHIL)	–	10	–
Orlando Marimon (COL)	–	–	3
Dingaan Thobela (SA)	20	–	4
John Lark (USA)	–	–	5
Wilson Palacios (COL)	–	–	6
Ivan Robinson (USA)	12	12	9
Eduardo Molina (COL)	–	–	10

JR. LIGHTWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Gabriel Ruelas (USA)	**C**	**–**	**–**
Genaro Hernandez (USA)	**–**	**C**	**–**
John-John Molina (PR)	**–**	**–**	**C**
Azumah Nelson (GHA)	1	3	9
Anatoly Alexandrov (RUS)	2	8	–
Ed Hopson (USA)	3	4	2
Jesse James Leija (USA)	4	6	7
Fred Liberatore (USA)	5	9	5
Jacobin Yoma (FRA)	6	11	–
Ulrich Johnson (TRIN)	7	–	–
Arturo Gatti (USA)	8	–	3
Jimmy Garcia (COL)	9	5	–
Yong Soo Choi (KOR)	10	2	–
Victor Hugo Paz (ARG)	–	1	–
Tony Pep (CAN)	–	7	–
Justin Juuko (UGA)	24	10	–
Moises Pedroza (COL)	–	–	1
Wilson Rodriguez (DR)	–	–	4
Phillip Holiday (SA)	–	–	6
Calvin Grove (USA)	–	–	8
Hernan Gutierrez (COL)	–	–	10

FEATHERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Alejandro Gonzalez (MEX)	**C**	**2**	**7**
Eloy Rojas (VEN)	**–**	**C**	**–**
Tom Johnson (USA)	**–**	**–**	**C**
Cesar Soto (MEX)	1	8	–
Kevin Kelley (USA)	2	–	–
Ever Beleno (COL)	3	4	1
Jose Badillo (PR)	4	7	6
Tracy Patterson (USA)	5	–	–
Hector Lizarraga (USA)	6	–	10
Tony Green (USA)	7	–	2
Chris Saguid (PHIL)	8	11	–
Carlos Rios (ARG)	9	–	–
Louie Espinoza (USA)	10	–	–
Yung Kyun Park (KOR)	13	1	–
Miguel Arrozal (PHIL)	12	3	3
Luis Mendoza (COL)	16	5	–
Orlando Soto (PAN)	14	6	8
Francisco Segura (USA)	20	9	4
Sean Murphy (USA)	–	10	–
Victor Polo (COL)	29	–	5
Manuel Medina (MEX)	–	–	9

JR. FEATHERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Hector Acero-Sanchez (DR)	**C**	**–**	**–**
Wilfredo Vasquez (PR)	**–**	**C**	**–**
Vuyani Bungu (SA)	**–**	**–**	**C**
Julio Gervacio (DR)	1	4	5
Marco Antonio Barrera (MEX)	2	–	–
Daniel Zaragoza (MEX)	3	–	–
Jesus Salud (USA)	4	8	6
Frank Toledo (USA)	5	–	9
Eddie Croft (USA)	6	–	–
Reynaldo Hurtado (COL)	7	–	7
Sergio Liendo (ARG)	8	–	–
Welcome Ncita (SA)	9	–	3
Jesse Benavides (USA)	10	–	–
Antonio Cermeno (VEN)	–	1	–
Arnulfo Romero (PAN)	26	2	–
Ramon Guzman (VEN)	18	3	–
Hiroaki Yokota (JAP)	14	5	–
Junior Jones (USA)	–	6	–
Thierry Jacob (FRA)	–	7	–
Hee Yun Kwon (KOR)	–	9	–
Yuichi Kasai (JAP)	–	10	–
Nurhuda (INDO)	–	–	1
Pablo Ozuna (COL)	–	–	2
Kennedy McKinney (USA)	13	–	4
Maui Diaz (USA)	20	–	8
Orlando Fernandez (PR)	–	–	10

BANTAMWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Yasuei Yakushiji (JAP)	**C**	**–**	**–**
Daorung Chuvatana (THAI)	**–**	**C**	**–**
Orlando Canizales (USA)	**–**	**–**	**C**
Wayne McCullough (IRE)	1	9	6
Joichiro Tatsuyoshi (JAP)	2	1	–
Nana Konadu (GHA)	3	6	–
Naseem Hamed (GB)	4	8	5
Khaoyai Mahasarakam (THAI)	5	–	–
Roberto Moran (ARG)	6	–	–
Victor Rabanales (MEX)	7	–	–
Dong Choon Lee (KOR)	8	–	–
Cuauhtemoc Gomez (MEX)	9	–	–
John Armour (GB)	10	–	8
Johnny Bredahl (DEN)	–	2	–
Jorge Julio (COL)	15	3	10
Yong Hoon Lee (KOR)	–	4	–
Abraham Torres (VEN)	22	5	9
John Michael Johnson (USA)	12	7	–
Harold Mestre (COL)	–	10	2
Juvenal Berrio (COL)	–	–	1
Sergio Reyes (USA)	19	–	3
Mbuelo Botile (SA)	26	–	4
Ricardo Vargas (MEX)	24	–	7

JR. BANTAMWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Hiroshi Kawashima (JAP)	**C**	**–**	**–**
Hyung Chul Lee (KOR)	**–**	**C**	**–**
Harold Grey (COL)	**–**	**–**	**C**
Cecilio Espino (MEX)	1	12	–
Danny Romero (USA)	2	7	–
Jose Luis Bueno (MEX)	3	6	–
Joel Luna Zarate (MEX)	4	–	4
Gerry Penalosa (PHIL)	5	3	–
Carlos Salazar (ARG)	6	–	–
Johnny Bredahl (DEN)	7	–	–
Luis Bolano (COL)	8	–	–
Seung Koo Lee (KOR)	9	5	–
Satoshi Iida (JAP)	10	2	–
Alimi Goitia (VEN)	21	1	–
David Griman (VEN)	19	4	–
Ernie Cataluna (PHIL)	–	8	–
Julio Gamboa Blanco (NIC)	–	9	–
Tomonori Tamura (JAP)	–	10	–
Julio Borboa (MEX)	–	–	1
Marco Antonio Barrera (MEX)	–	–	2
Jaji Sibali (SA)	–	–	3
Jose Diaz (USA)	25	–	5
Ratanachai Sor Voraphin (THAI)	–	–	6
Rodolfo Blanco (COL)	–	–	7
Ubadel Soto (COL)	–	–	8
Lamhot Simamora (INDO)	–	–	9
Rolando Bohol (PHIL)	26	–	10

FLYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Yuri Arbachakov (RUS)	**C**	**–**	**–**
San Sor Ploenchit (THAI)	**–**	**C**	**–**
Vacant	**–**	**–**	**C**
Chatchai Elite-Gym (THAI)	1	–	–
Mark Johnson (USA)	2	–	7
Oscar Arciniega (MEX)	3	9	–
Hugo Soto (ARG)	4	–	–
Miguel Martinez (MEX)	5	–	9
Isaias Zamudio (USA)	6	11	–
Jesus Zuniga (COL)	7	–	–
Chokchai 3-K Battery (THAI)	8	6	–
Raul Rios (MEX)	9	–	–
Enrique Orozco (MEX)	10	–	–
Evangelino Perez (PAN)	25	1	–
Alvaro Mercado (COL)	–	2	–
Hiroki Ioka (JAP)	20	3	–
Robbie Regan (GB)	12	4	8
Aquiles Guzman (VEN)	24	5	–
Jose Luis Zepeda (MEX)	–	7	1
Yong Soon Chang (KOR)	–	8	–
Sung Tae Lim (KOR)	–	10	–
Francisco Tejedor (COL)	–	–	2
Ferid Ben Jeddou (TUN)	16	–	3
Danny Romero (USA)	–	–	4
Chatchai Sasakul (THAI)	–	–	5
Abdi Pohan (INDO)	–	–	6
Alberto Jimenez (MEX)	–	–	10

JR. FLYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Chiquita Gonzalez (MEX)	**C**	**–**	**C**
Leo Gamez (VEN)	**–**	**C**	**–**
Melchor Cob Castro (MEX)	1	9	4
Michael Carbajal (USA)	2	4	3
Jesus Chong (MEX)	3	7	10
Carlos Murillo (PAN)	4	2	2
Miguel Angel Granados (MEX)	5	–	–
Javier Varguez (MEX)	6	–	–
Saman Sorjaturong (THAI)	7	–	–
Yong Soon Chang (KOR)	8	–	–
Eric Griffin (USA)	9	8	6
Hadao C.P. Gym (THAI)	10	5	–
Hi Yong Choi (KOR)	–	1	–
Virgilio Chifundo (PAN)	26	3	–
Yuichi Hosono (JAP)	11	6	7
Yong Jin Kim (KOR)	–	10	–
Jesus Zuniga (COL)	–	–	1
Kwang Sun Kim (KOR)	–	–	5
Yani Malhendo (INDO)	–	–	8
Shiro Yahiro (JAP)	22	–	9

STRAWWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Ricardo Lopez (MEX)	**C**	**–**	**–**
Chana Porpaoin (THAI)	**–**	**C**	**–**
Ratanapol Vorapin (THAI)	**–**	**–**	**C**
Ala Villamor (PHIL)	1	3	–
Kermin Guardia (COL)	2	4	–
Andy Tabanas (PHIL)	3	–	–
Rocky Lin (JAP)	4	–	–
Osvaldo Guerrero (MEX)	5	–	–
Songkram Porpaoin (THAI)	6	7	–
Shinichi Tamaki (JAP)	7	9	–
Joma Gamboa (PHIL)	8	–	3
Seo Kjin Yang (KOR)	9	6	–
Yodsing Saengmorokot (THAI)	10	–	–
Jin Ho Kim (KOR)	–	1	–
Rosendo Alvarez (NIC)	17	2	4
Saman Sorjaturong (THAI)	–	5	–
Keum Yung Kang (KOR)	–	8	–
Manuel Herrera (DR)	–	10	–
Mauricio Pastrana (COL)	–	–	1
Oscar Flores (COL)	–	–	2
Ernesto Rubillar (PHIL)	–	–	5
Carlos Rodriguez (VEN)	–	–	6
Surachai Saengmorokot (THAI)	–	–	7
Dominggus (INDO)	–	–	8
Jerry Pahayahay (PHIL)	24	–	9
Rafael Torres (USA)	–	–	10

CLASSIC

THE MOORE

THE MERRIER

From THE RING, November 1959

Ted Carroll

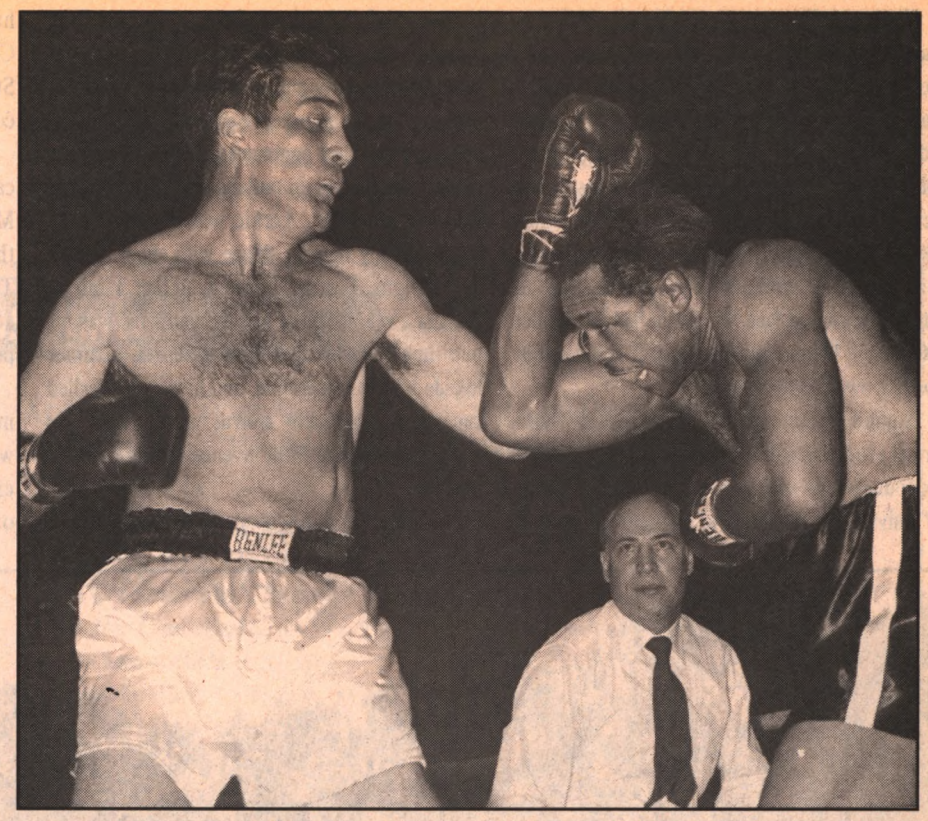
Of late, the choral accompaniment to the pugilistic parade has been a harsh cacophony, with the only mellow notes those sounded by Archie Moore, boxing's piest warrior. In a setting of sour notes wned by postfight developments in the nsson-Patterson heavyweight title match, haic Archie, the ring Methuselah with the d of a minstrel, goes his merry way playing a py tune. Moore is more than a trooper of ana—he is a troubadour in tights and gloves. him the boxing beat is a bongo drum, the gedness of the roped arena a joyful rhythm. hie has no singing voice, but to him, life, the demanding one of a fighter, is a song.

***

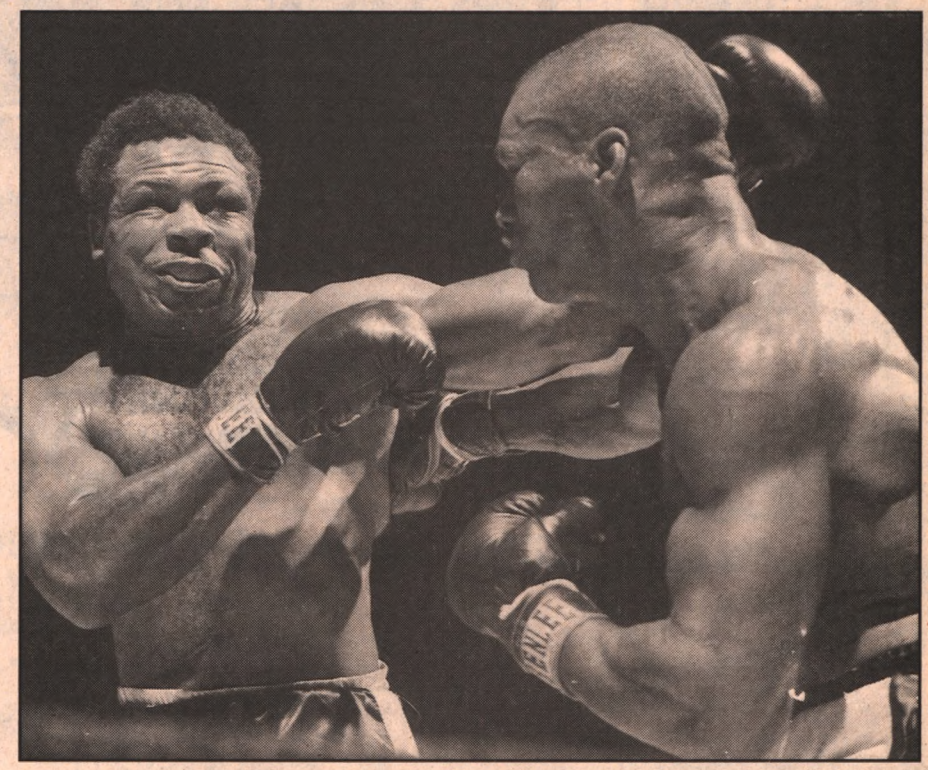
No boxer has ever enjoyed a title more, while the same time cashing in on his enjoyment e profitably than any light heavyweight mp within memory. Originally a synthetic the 175-pound crown was for many years ed upon as little more than a talking point for eventual shot at the heavyweight title. This unts for the fact that practically every light yweight titleholder made serious attempts at big title. All failed, including Moore, but ke the others, Archie bounced right back into lesser division and made it pay off even more atively with purses such as the $175,000 he ed up for his easy victory over Yvon Durelle.

When Archie picked pugilism as a fession, the world gained a pugilist of stic ingenuity and persistence. He did what unted to a one-man job of ballyhooing the ciano fight into a million-dollar proposition, ng it to the public in a two-year campaign of -pressure hokum which could serve as model the smartest Madison Avenue operators. The al Marciano, at first irked by Archie's ling, did a complete changeover to beaming ration of Archie's prefight buildup when he handed a half-million-dollar payoff as his e.

As a public relations man and goodwill ssador, Archie Moore is without a peer. He over the whole Dominion of Canada when, day following a fishing boat disaster in lle's home province, he took to TV to call all Canadian citizens to donate toward the of the families of the fishermen whose lives lost, while at the same time starting the ball ng with his own contribution of $1,000. rally, this gesture did him no harm ghout the North country, and his win over the Canadian champion was a most popular one.



Long ignored by 175-pound titleholders, Moore proved he was the best light heavyweight in the world by beating Joey Maxim (above) three times. Among "The Ol' Mongoose's" defenses has been a 14th-round stoppage of talented Philadelphian Harold Johnson in 1954 (below).



Upon learning of the predicament of a seriously ailing New York sportswriter, who has since passed on, Archie quickly forwarded a check for $1,000 to the New York Boxing Writers Association two years ago to add to a fund that was being collected.

Often praised for such generosity, Archie, who knew many lean and hungry days, has a stock answer: "I'm not giving, I'm sharing."

The small town of North Adams, Massachusetts, has never been the same since Moore set up training quarters there for the Marciano fight. Whether bicycling with the town kids, playing on the local softball team, volunteering better business suggestions to the local merchants, or charming the village ladies with coy cosmopolitanisms culled from the corners of the earth, Moore, by the time he entered the ring to face Marciano, had the hamlet 100 percent behind him, although it is located in Rocky's own New England.

Somewhere along the way, Moore, whose formal education is limited, picked up a veneer of vocabularizing, which, while affected, is never offensive. This makes him a delight to working pressmen often hard put for new angles. They know Archie will never fail to come up with some flamboyantly phrased odd twist. As part of the cleverly concocted exhibitionism which amuses rather than aggravates, Archie is given to public appearances in outlandish outfits. For the Bobo Olson fight, Archie was decked out in black cowboy regalia, ablaze with shiny buttons and designs. For the James J. Parker affair in Canada, evening dress, top hat, and tails, was his habiliment. Clad in Bermuda shorts, summer tuxedo with cummerbund, and his silver-handled cane, he was trailed by crowds as he promenaded along New York's Fifth Avenue during a recent torrid spell.

Sensing the publicity possibilities there, he has effected a beard much of the time, since Cuba's chin-whiskered Fidel Castro rose to fame. Strangely, Archie's posturing has no taint of conceit, and no one resents it.

Max Baer was a merry fellow—until the time came to get down to the business of training. But Moore harmonizes the conditioning grind with the tuneful tempo of his life, with Lucky Thompson's jazz combination beating out an accompaniment to the rat-a-tat-tat of the punching bag as Archie works out in the gym.

A voluminous letter writer, Archie never misses sending notes of appreciation to those who say nice things about him. He has even extended his activities here in the interests of others. When famed columnist-reporter Bob

There isn't another fighter quite like Moore. Who else would prepare for a fight by sharing an introspective moment with saxophonist Lucky Thompson?

nsidine penned a particularly glowing tribute Joe Louis on the occasion of the old Bomber's rthday, a letter reached Considine a few days ter, expressing thanks in Joe's behalf, with the planation "... that since Joe is probably too sy, permit me to say thanks for him ..."

Just being alive is such an expansive experience for Archie Moore, he spends little time sleeping, getting by with just a few hours a night. No early-to-bedder, he is still up and about early, making the most of each and every day. Moore's appreciation of just being alive is understandable when it is recalled that this extroverted individual was at one time confined by a serious illness for almost a year.

From February 1941 to January 1942, Moore not only was unable to do any boxing, but for a time it was feared he might not survive.

THE RING RATINGS, *November 1959*

Don Jordan

HEAVYWEIGHTS
World Champ: Ingemar Johansson, Sweden

1. **Floyd Patterson**, Rockville Centre, NY
2. **Zora Folley**, Chandler, AZ
3. **Sonny Liston**, Philadelphia, PA
4. **Eddie Machen**, Redding, CA
5. **Henry Cooper**, England
6. **Roy Harris**, Cut and Shoot, TX
7. **Joe Erskine**, Wales
8. **Alex Miteff**, Argentina
9. **Charlie Powell**, San Diego, CA
10. **Tony Anthony**, New York, NY

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
World Champ: Archie Moore, San Diego, CA

1. **Harold Johnson**, Philadelphia, PA
2. **Yvon Durelle**, Canada
3. **Erich Schoppner**, Germany
4. **Jesse Bowdry**, St. Louis, MO
5. **Mike Holt**, South Africa
6. **Von Clay**, Philadelphia, PA
7. **Sonny Ray**, Chicago, IL
8. **Chic Calderwood**, Scotland
9. **Johnny Halafahi**, Tonga
10. **Sante Amonti**, Italy

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
World Champ: Ray Robinson, New York, NY

1. **Gene Fullmer**, West Jordan, UT
2. **Spider Webb**, Chicago, IL
3. **Carmen Basilio**, Chittenango, NY
4. **Joey Giardello**, Philadelphia, PA
5. **Gustav Scholz**, Germany
6. **Holly Mims**, Washington, D.C.
7. **Paul Pender**, Boston, MA
8. **Joey Giambra**, San Francisco, CA
9. **Ralph Jones**, Yonkers, NY
10. **Dick Tiger**, Nigeria

WELTERWEIGHTS
World Champ: Don Jordan, Los Angeles, CA

1. **Sugar Hart**, Philadelphia, PA
2. **Charley Scott**, Philadelphia, PA
3. **Ralph Dupas**, New Orleans, LA
4. **Denny Moyer**, Portland, OR
5. **Luis Rodriguez**, Cuba
6. **Virgil Akins**, St. Louis, MO
7. **Duilio Loi**, Italy
8. **Rudell Stitch**, Louisville, KY
9. **Florentino Fernandez**, Cuba
10. **Gaspar Ortega**, Mexico

LIGHTWEIGHTS
World Champ: Joe Brown, Baton Rouge, LA

1. **Carlos Ortiz**, New York, NY
2. **Kenny Lane**, Muskegon, MI
3. **Paolo Rosi**, New York, NY
4. **Dave Charnley**, England
5. **Johnny Busso**, New York, NY
6. **Johnny Gonsalves**, Oakland, CA
7. **Len Matthews**, Philadelphia, PA
8. **Paul Armstead**, Los Angeles, CA
9. **Guy Gracia**, France
10. **Battling Torres**, Mexico

FEATHERWEIGHTS
World Champ: Davey Moore, Springfield, OH

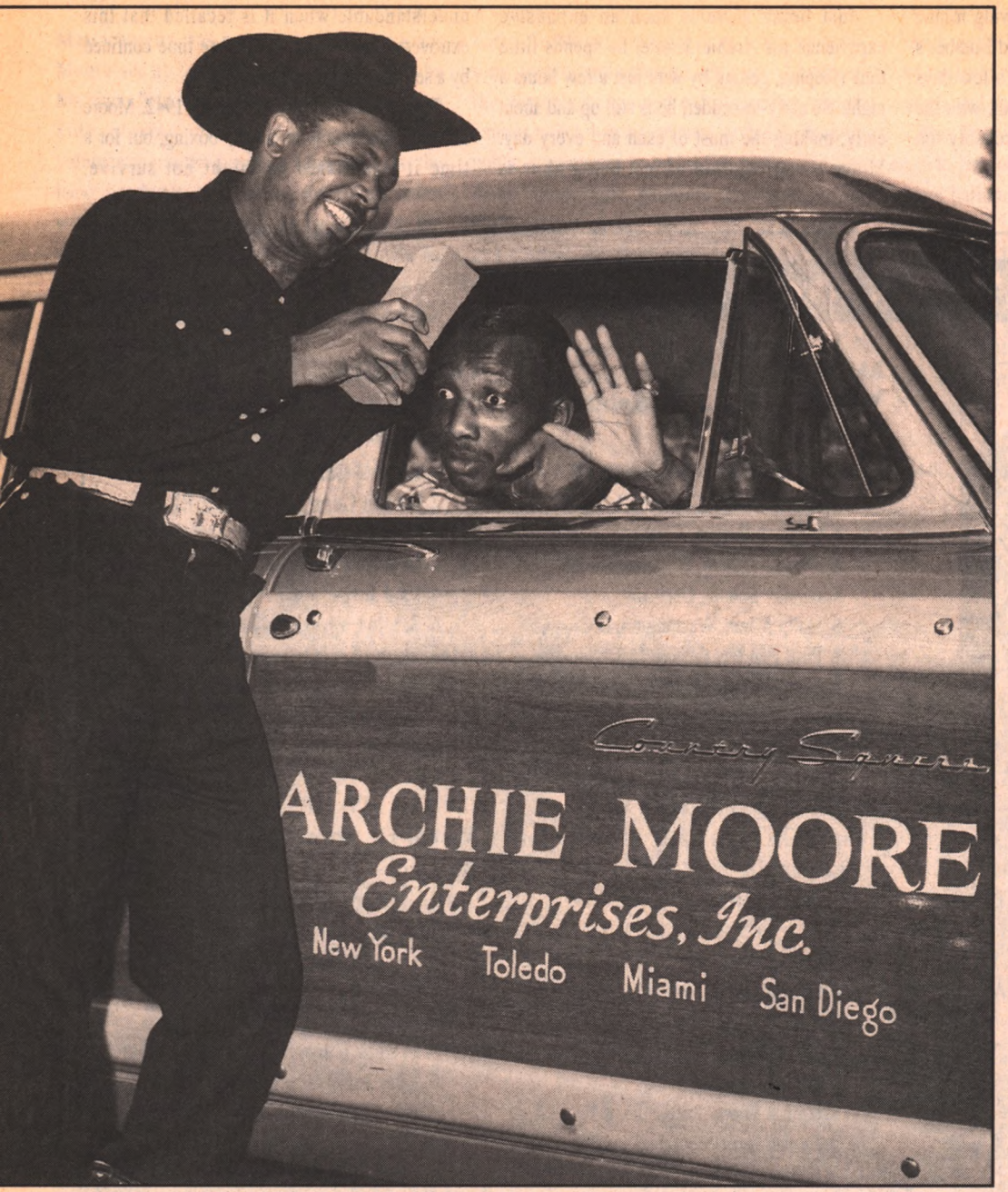
1. **Ricardo Gonzalez**, Argentina
2. **Harold Gomes**, Providence, RI
3. **Hogan (Kid) Bassey**, Nigeria
4. **Gracieux Lamperti**, France
5. **Paul Jorgensen**, Port Arthur, TX
6. **Sergio Caprari**, Italy
7. **Flash Elorde**, Philippines
8. **Rafiu King**, Nigeria
9. **Ike Chestnut**, New York, NY
10. **Manolo Garcia**, Spain

BANTAMWEIGHTS
World Champ: Joe Becerra, Mexico

1. **Alphonse Halimi**, France
2. **Piero Rollo**, Italy
3. **Leo Espinosa**, Philippines
4. **Jose Lopez**, Mexico
5. **Danny Kid**, Philippines
6. **Freddie Gilroy**, Ireland
7. **Eder Jofre**, Brazil
8. **Edwin Sykes**, Panama
9. **Juan Cardenas**, Spain
10. **Mario D'Agata**, Italy

FLYWEIGHTS
World Champ: Pascual Perez, Argentina

1. **Sadao Yaoita**, Japan
2. **Pone Kingpetch**, Thailand
3. **Joe Medel**, Mexico
4. **Ramon Arias**, Venezuela
5. **Minum Ben Ali**, Spain
6. **Dommy Ursua**, Philippines
7. **Ramon Calatayud**, Venezuela
8. **Hiram Bacallo**, Cuba
9. **Risto Luukkonen**, Finland
10. **Young Martin**, Spain



Moore is an intellectual, at least by boxing's standards. But he can be light and playful, as world featherweight champion Sandy Saddler found out. Moore also loves music, and has been known to write songs.

Undoubtedly, this close decision over the Grim Reaper accounts for Archie's awareness of the blessings of just being alive.

Lacking a voice and playing no instrument, Moore yields to no man in his love for music, playing records for hours at a time. He refuses to be shut out of making some contribution to his melodic world, so he writes a song now and then, and with tender sentiment, recites it on Ed Sullivan's TV program. "Stay With It," a piece patterned after his own long struggle for recognition, received such an airing, and "Get The Message," an opus inspired by the Olson triumph, is another Moore creation.

Most fighters revel in their fame, but in Moore's euphoria we find none of high-living Ray Robinson's arrogance, Baer's buffoonery, Battling Siki's eccentricity, Beau Jack's innocence, Harry Greb and Mickey Walker's carousing, Maxie Rosenbloom's wackiness, or Jack Johnson's jams. All of these enjoyed life to the hilt in their fashion, but Archie hits his happy heights without their failings.

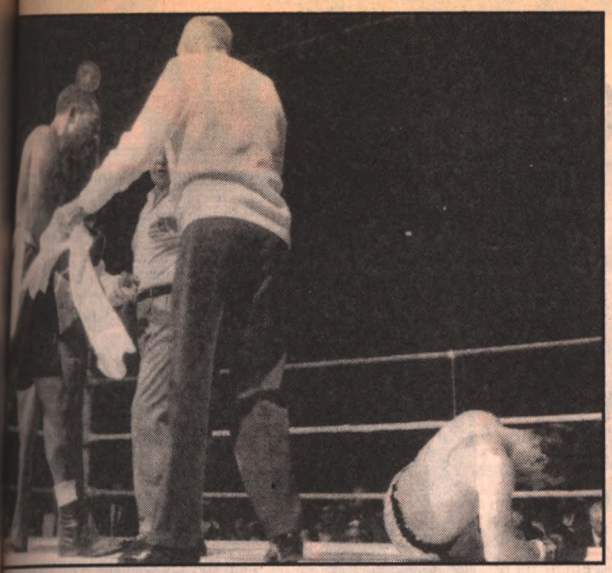
That Moore would finally find himself bracketed with old Jack "Doc" Kearns, Moore's prototype among managers, had to happen sooner or later. Who else but this pa would try to make a fight publici gimmick out of Queen Elizabeth trip to Canada by making th boner of referring to Her Majest as Queen Victoria, or in a dressin room announcement immediatel after the Durelle win, offerin heavyweight Johansson a cool $1 million for a fight?

Keen observers have pointe out that Moore is not only master at making friends fo himself, but is an enchantin envoy for the boxing busines without equal. The opinion i well-expressed by polished Jimm Bronson, goodwill ambassador emeritus of the boxing game these many years.

"Wherever Archie Moore goes, he leaves people with a great impression of boxing and boxers," said Bow-Tie Jimmy. "I caught him training out at Summit, New Jersey, for the Olson fight, and I never saw a fellow take so much time out catering to kids and whole families. He made more friends in an hour than most people do in a lifetime, and that's the kind of thing that helps everybody in this business. They'd be doing all right if they picked Archie Moore to succeed my old partner, Jock Whitney, as ambassador to England. He's the perfect diplomat."

Mr. Bronson may have something here, recalling that during stays in Argentina, Moore completely won over then-dictator Peron, as well as the populace of this South American country.

A born moralizer, Moore even extracts gladness and a happy lesson for us all in his own long and arduous struggle for recognition. Instead of being bitter about the long years his great ability was dissipated in the tank towns and whistle stops of the hinterlands for little more than walking-around money, optimistic Archie puts it this way: "Suppose I had gotten my chance when I was just a young fellow like some others. By now I'd probably be broke and washed up just like they are. Everything works out for the



Moore's second defense against Canada's Yvon Durelle was much easier than expected. The challenger fell in three rounds (above), and the day after in his hotel room, Moore read all about it in the newspapers (below).

best. When a man makes good late in life, it can be better because all the young foolishness is out of him and he knows what to do with a good break."

When Shakespeare said, "Age cannot wither ... ," he must have foreseen Archie Moore, in his younger days a somewhat somber fellow, who, as time transformed his temperament and a belated prosperity came upon him, turned out to be the happiest of warriors. ■

The Cover: Ever since his retirement in 1955, former heavyweight champion Rocky Marciano has been asked about a possible comeback. In an exclusive interview conducted by Jersey Jones, The Rock addresses the question. "Ninety-five percent of me says no, and five percent says yes," he states. "Nobody realizes more than I do what I'd be up against if I decided to fight again."

The Destruction Of Confidence: After having been brutally kayoed by Ingemar Johansson, will former heavyweight champion Floyd Patterson (pictured) ever be the same? Al Buck spotlights some of boxing's most prominent kayo victims and determines whether suffering devastating defeats destroyed their confidence.

The Real Story Of Dempsey-Gibbons: In the second installment of a three-part profile of Tommy Gibbons, George A. Barton, sports editor emeritus of the *Minneapolis Tribune*, focuses on Gibbons' most famous moment, his infamous 1923 heavyweight title fight with Jack Dempsey. "I planned to put Jack on his heels and keep him there," said Gibbons. Dempsey retained the title by 15-round decision.

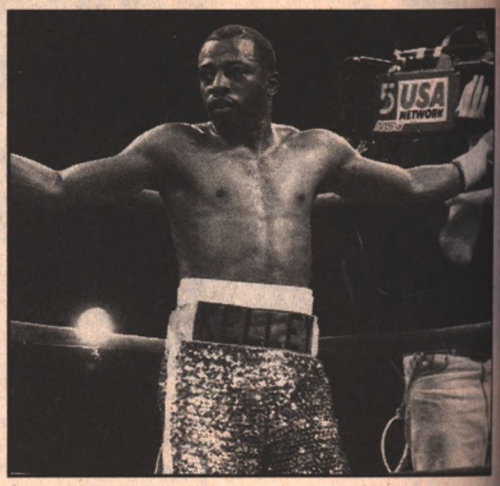
The Ring And The Stage: Bill Miller looks at the longtime connection between boxing and the entertainment industry. Some of the examples cited: Al Jolson managed Henry Armstrong (pictured); Jim Corbett was managed by Bill Brady, who became a renowned theatrical producer; Sugar Ray Robinson briefly retired to become a dancer; and George Bernard Shaw wrote a novel about the prize ring titled *Cashel Byron's Profession.*

Fighter Of The Month: Gene Fullmer is selected for his 14th-round stoppage of Carmen Basilio. With the victory, the former middleweight champion captured the NBA crown. Fullmer is hoping for a rubber match with world champion Sugar Ray Robinson, who dethroned him in 1957.

LOOKING AHEAD

By Steve Farhood

IS KELLEY-BOOM BOOM A BUST-BUST?



Kelley: Waiting to lower the Boom?

After Kevin Kelley lost the WBC featherweight title to Alejandro Gonzalez and then jumped from Garden State Boxing to Top Rank, it seemed there were no more obstacles blocking a bout between "The Flushing Flash" and IBF 126-pound champion Tom Johnson. That's a long-anticipated fight we—and most other hard-core fans—would love to see.

"They're still throwing the Kelley fight in my face, but there can be no decrease in the money [now that it is no longer a unification bout]," Johnson, who remains part of Garden State's promotional stable, told THE RING after outpointing Manuel Medina in late-January.

"There are only two fights at featherweight for me—Johnson or Gonzalez," countered Kelley. "I'm not ready for junior lightweight."

As usual, the fighters will need HBO to come up with the cash to make such a bout. Says Lou DiBella, a network vice president, "It's a fight I want, but it's unlikely to be made in the near-future because of dates. We have Pernell Whitaker under long-term contract, Oscar De La Hoya, Riddick Bowe, Lennox Lewis and Michael Moorer coming back, and George Foreman. We have a date problem."

Sounds like for "The Little Giants," it's back to the end of the line.

LISTEN UP

Good news for couch potatoes: Despite disappointing ratings during the network's Quaker State-sponsored boxing series in 1994, CBS has scheduled 15 to 20 weekend shows in '95, beginning on April 30. As we went to press, the matchups had not yet been announced ... You might think that with former featherweight champion **Kevin Kelley** having signed with Top Rank, promoter **Bob Arum** is planning to match "The Flushing Flash" with WBC super featherweight champion **Gabe Ruelas**. But according to Ruelas' manager, **Dan Goossen**, his fighter is seeking a defense against either two-division former champion **Azumah Nelson** or WBA 130-pound king **Genaro Hernandez**.

Las Vegas Hilton

FUTURE FIGHTS

By Art Manteris

VP/Director of Race and Sports Operations, Las Vegas Hilton

Favorite	Underdog	Odds	The Skinny
George Foreman	Axel Schulz	8-1	Axel who?
Roy Jones	Vinny Pazienza	20-1	Mismatch!
Oscar De La Hoya	Rafael Ruelas	7-5	Can't wait to see this one
Michael Carbajal	Ricardo Lopez	3-2	Don't count out Lopez
Gabe Ruelas	Genaro Hernandez	7-5	Might be best matchup in boxing

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